29
DOCTOR SOLAR
WHITMAN
90308-110

# DOCTOR SOLAR®

## MAN OF THE ATOM

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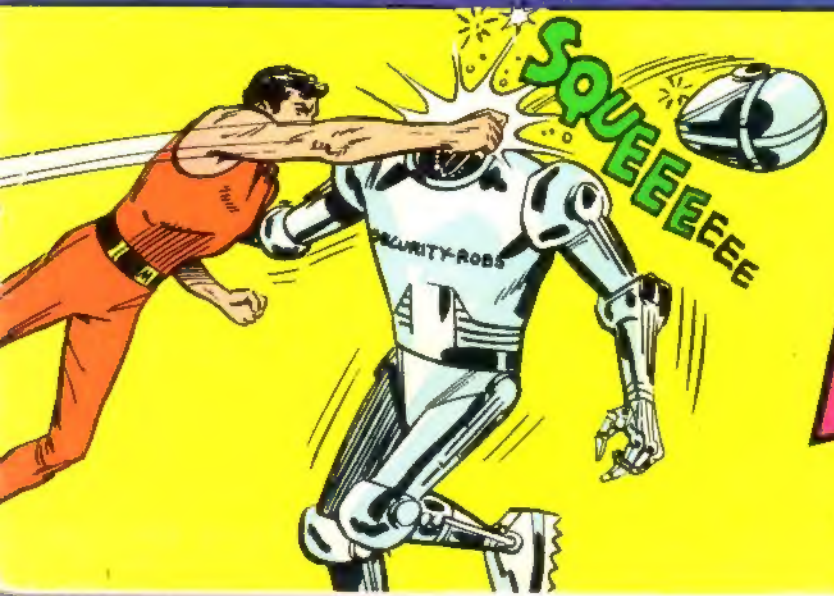


ALSO IN THIS ISSUE!

MAGNUS ROBOT FIGHTER 4000 A.D.

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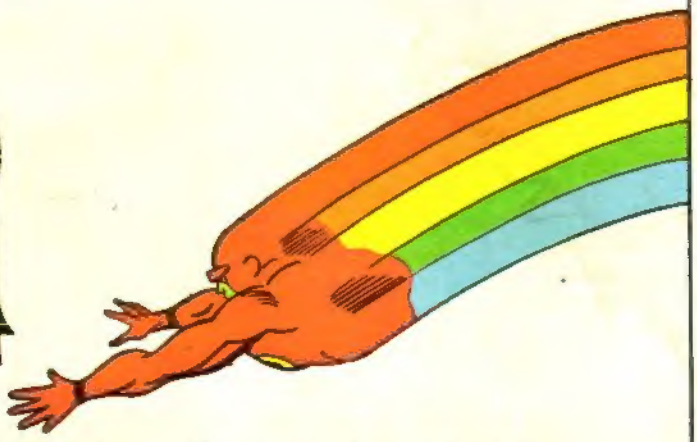
# DOCTOR SOLAR
## MAN OF THE ATOM



A scientist caught in the fury of an atomic accident...

...is changed into a being with fantastic powers!

Follow his adventures as:

**Doctor Solar Man of the Atom!**

Now a Whitman Comic!

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DOCTOR
SOLAR
MAN OF THE ATOM
"LI' RAE"
YOU WON'T FIND THE SPRAWLING ATOM VALLEY NUCLEAR COMPLEX LISTED ON ANY MAP. OFFICIALLY, IT DOES NOT EXIST...
NEITHER DOES DOCTOR SOLAR, THE MAN OF THE ATOM...
YET BOTH ARE UNIQUE IN ALL THE WORLD...
MORNING, DOCTOR CLARKSON.
STOP
WRITTEN BY: ROGER McKENZIE
ART BY: DAN SPIEGLE
90308-110
DR SOLAR 29-818

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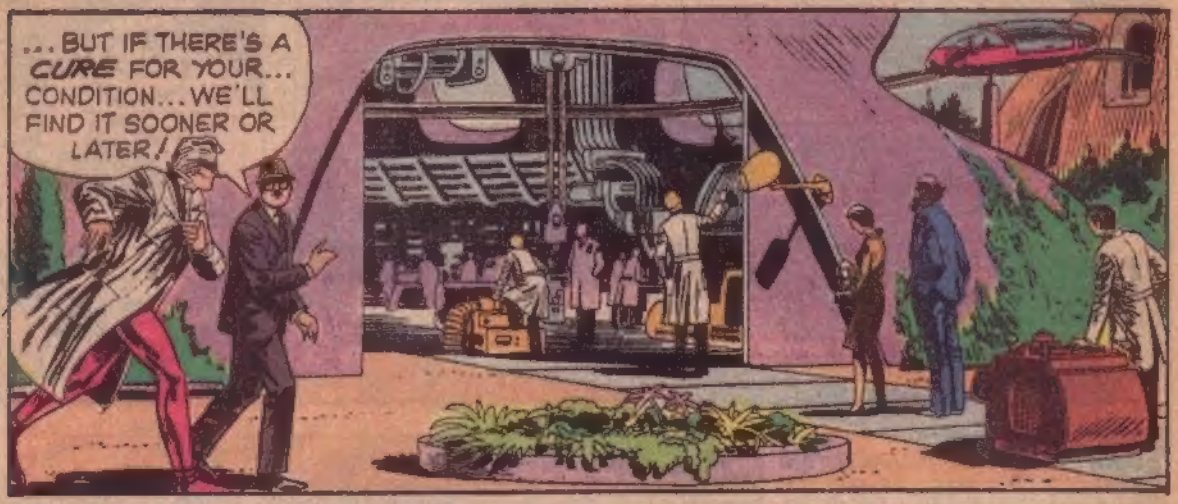
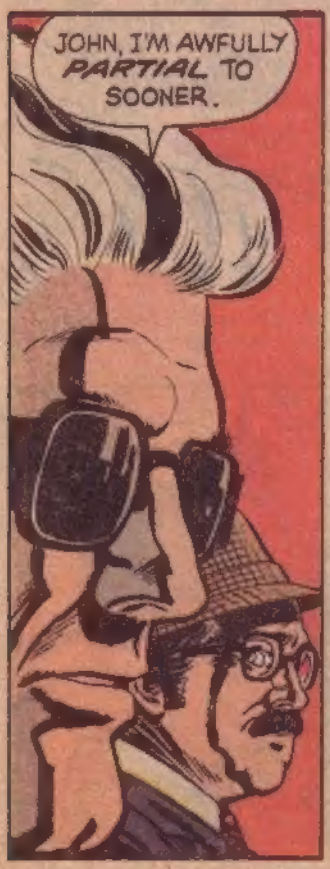
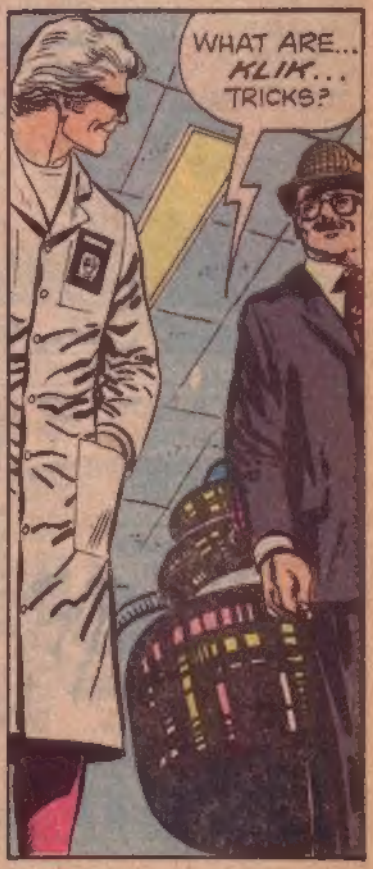
... WITH THE EIGHT O'CLOCK NEWS, MOST OF CENTRAL PERU LIES IN RUINS FOLLOWING A VIOLENT EARTHQUAKE LATE LAST NIGHT.
REPORTS ARE STILL SKETCHY BUT EYEWITNESSES CLAIM THE DEATH TOLL WOULD HAVE CLIMBED MUCH HIGHER...
PARKING
... IF NOT FOR A MYSTERIOUS "DIABLO FROM THE STARS" REPUTED TO HAVE SAVED COUNTLESS LIVES!
SOLAR! OR SHOULD I CALL YOU DIABLO?
SOUNDS LIKE YOU HAD A BUSY NIGHT.
I WISH I COULD HAVE DONE MORE, DOCTOR CLARKSON.
I'M SURE YOU DID ALL ANY MAN COULD.
THAT'S JUST IT. I'M NOT A MAN!
NOT ANYMORE...

I KNOW THE LAST FEW YEARS HAVEN'T BEEN EASY FOR YOU, OLD FRIEND...


...BUT IF THERE'S A CURE FOR YOUR... CONDITION... WE'LL FIND IT SOONER OR LATER!

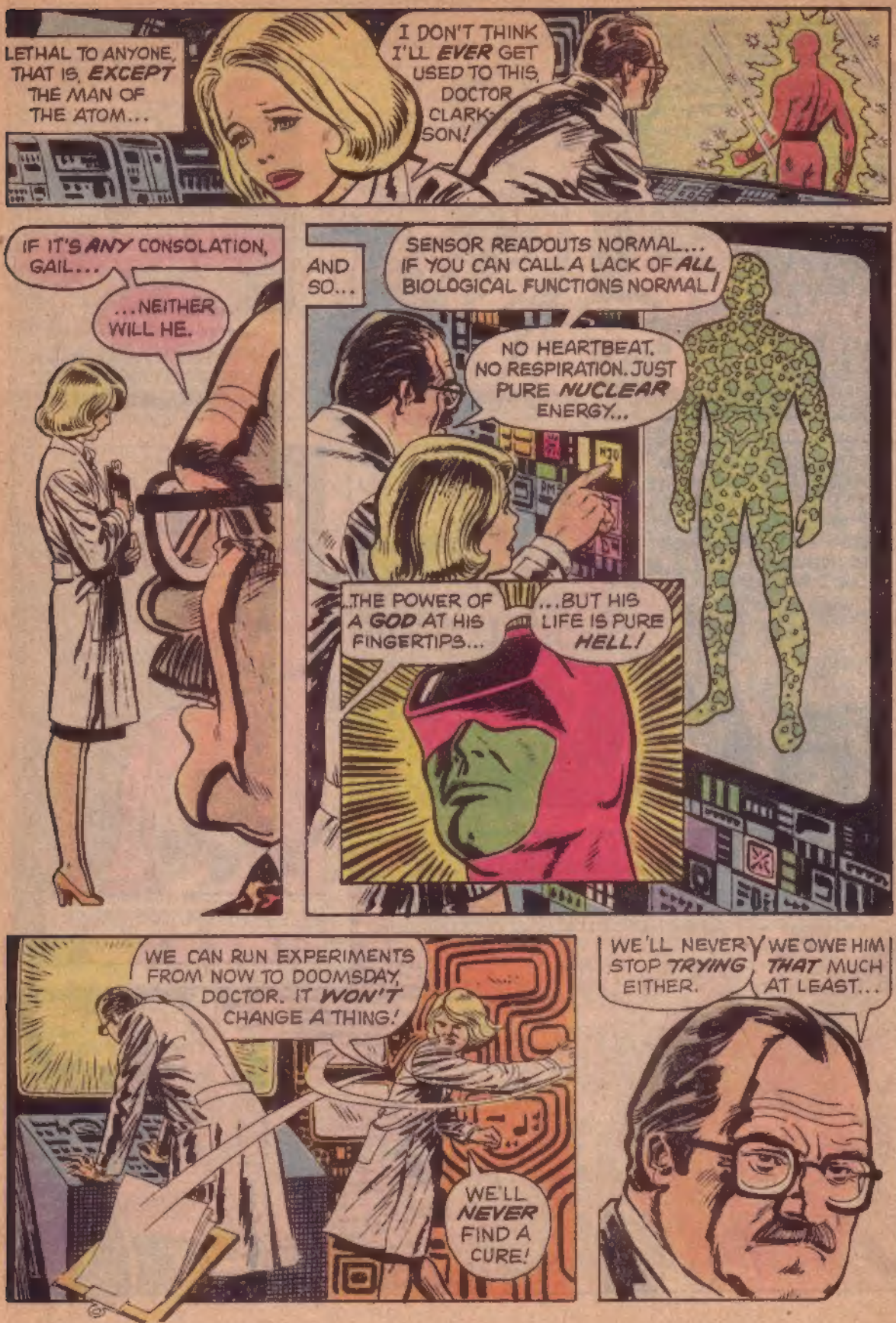

JOHN, I'M AWFULLY PARTIAL TO SOONER.

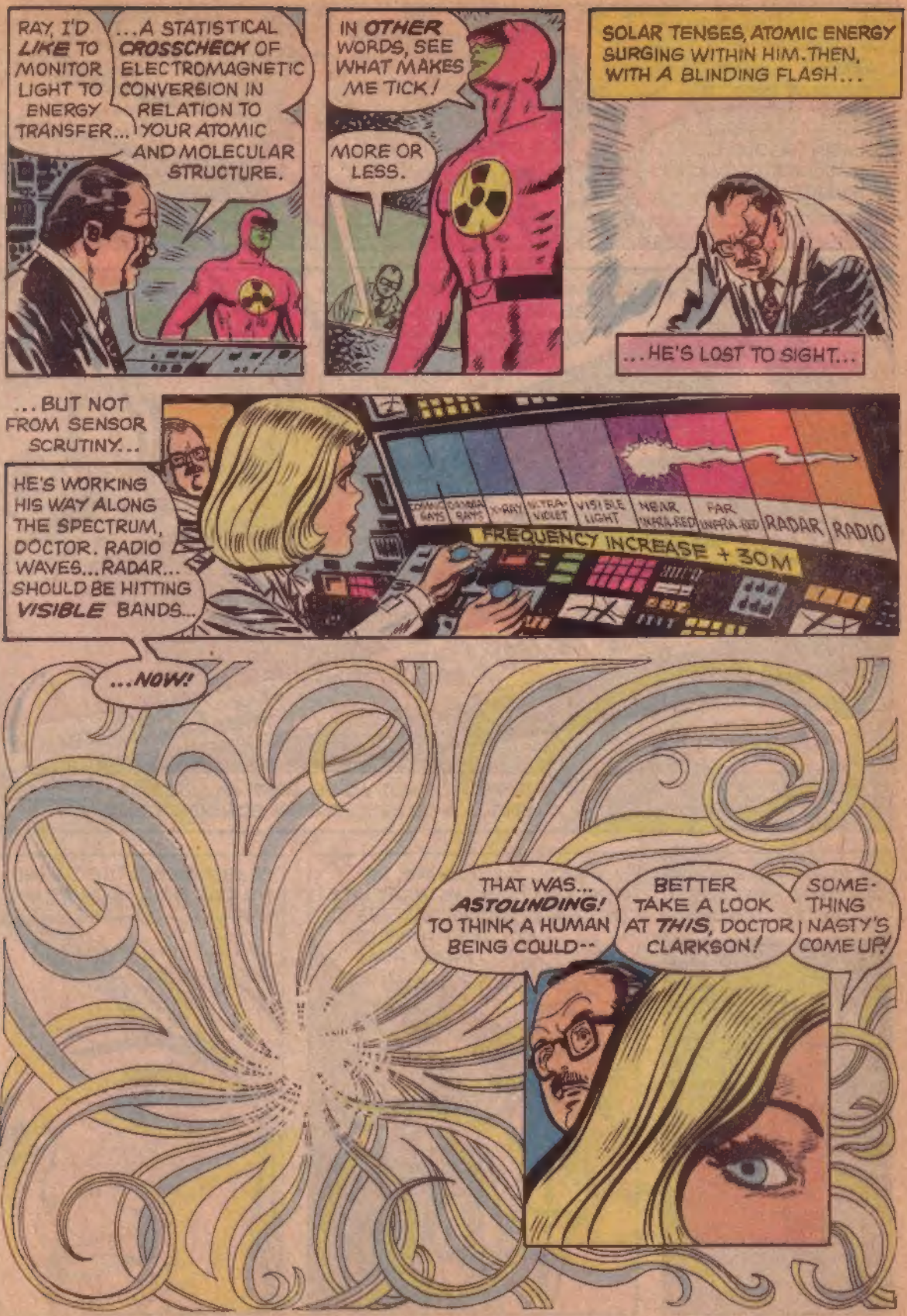
HELLO, TINKER. HOW'S TRICKS?
DOCTORS SOLAR AND CLARKSON... KLIK... CLEARED FOR ADMITTANCE... KLIK... SECURITY AREA ALPHA.

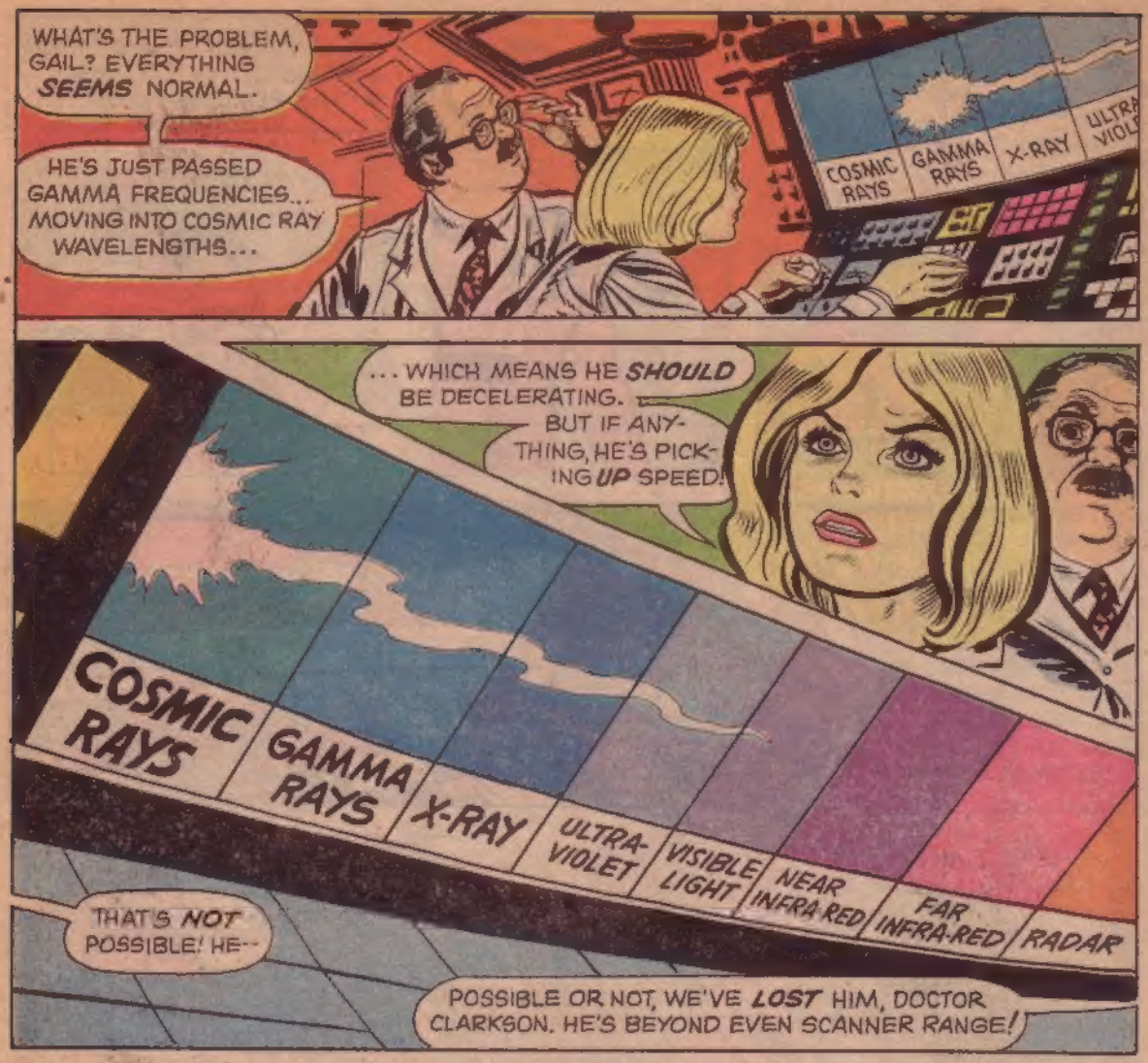

WHAT ARE... KLIK... TRICKS?

I'D LIKE TO RUN SOME MORE TESTS ON YOU. MAYBE--
WE'VE BEEN THROUGH THIS BEFORE. I'M BEGINNING TO FEEL LIKE A GUINEA PIG!
THAT ISN'T FAIR, RAY...TO EITHER OF US.
I CAN'T HELP YOU IF YOU WON'T LET ME!
I KNOW, JOHN. I DIDN'T MEAN TO SNAP.
BUT SOMETIMES I FEEL SO BITTER I JUST WANT TO--
AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY
SKRAKK!
I CAN DO THINGS... INCREDIBLE THINGS ...THAT OTHERS ONLY DREAM OF!
BUT WHAT GOOD IS IT IF I CAN'T LIVE A NORMAL LIFE?
ASK THE PEOPLE YOU'VE HELPED AS THE MAN OF THE ATOM, RAY.
THEY COULD GIVE YOU A BETTER ANSWER THAN I EVER COULD.

DR. CLARKSON'S RIGHT, BUT IT'S SO TERRIBLY UNFAIR. I'M A VIRTUAL OUTCAST IN--
RAY!
I HEARD THE NEWS-CASTS. I'M SO PROUD OF--
WE HAVE WORK TO DO, DOCTOR SANDERS! IT WON'T WAIT.
OF COURSE ... DOCTOR SOLAR...
HOW CAN A NUCLEAR MAN HAVE SUCH A COLD HEART?
I'D LIKE NOTHING MORE THAN TO HOLD GAIL IN MY ARMS, BUT SO LONG AS MY VERY TOUCH COULD PROVE FATAL, IT'S BEST SHE NEVER KNOWS HOW I REALLY FEEL!
NO MATTER HOW MUCH IT HURTS ME--
READY WHEN YOU ARE, RAY.
O.K. LET'S GET IT OVER WITH THEN.
DR. CLARKSON NODS SADLY...
...AND WITH PRACTICED EASE PUNCHES A SERIES OF COMPUTER CONTROLS THAT RELEASE THE LETHAL ATOMIC HEART OF A MAN-MADE SUN!

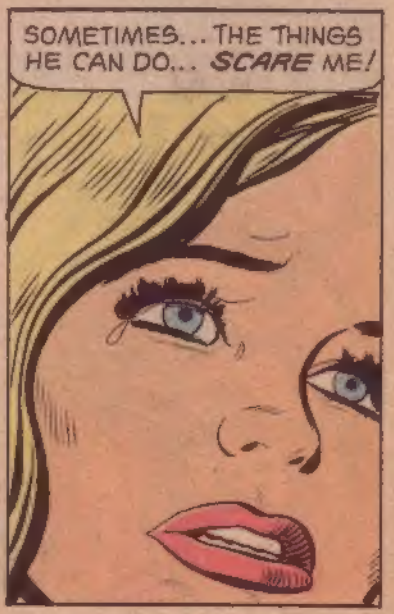

LETHAL TO ANYONE, THAT IS, EXCEPT THE MAN OF THE ATOM...
I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER GET USED TO THIS, DOCTOR CLARKSON!
IF IT'S ANY CONSOLATION, GAIL...
...NEITHER WILL HE.
AND SO...
SENSOR READOUTS NORMAL... IF YOU CAN CALL A LACK OF ALL BIOLOGICAL FUNCTIONS NORMAL!
NO HEARTBEAT. NO RESPIRATION. JUST PURE NUCLEAR ENERGY...
...THE POWER OF A GOD AT HIS FINGERTIPS...
...BUT HIS LIFE IS PURE HELL!
WE CAN RUN EXPERIMENTS FROM NOW TO DOOMSDAY, DOCTOR. IT WON'T CHANGE A THING!
WE'LL NEVER FIND A CURE!
WE'LL NEVER STOP TRYING EITHER.
WE OWE HIM THAT MUCH AT LEAST...

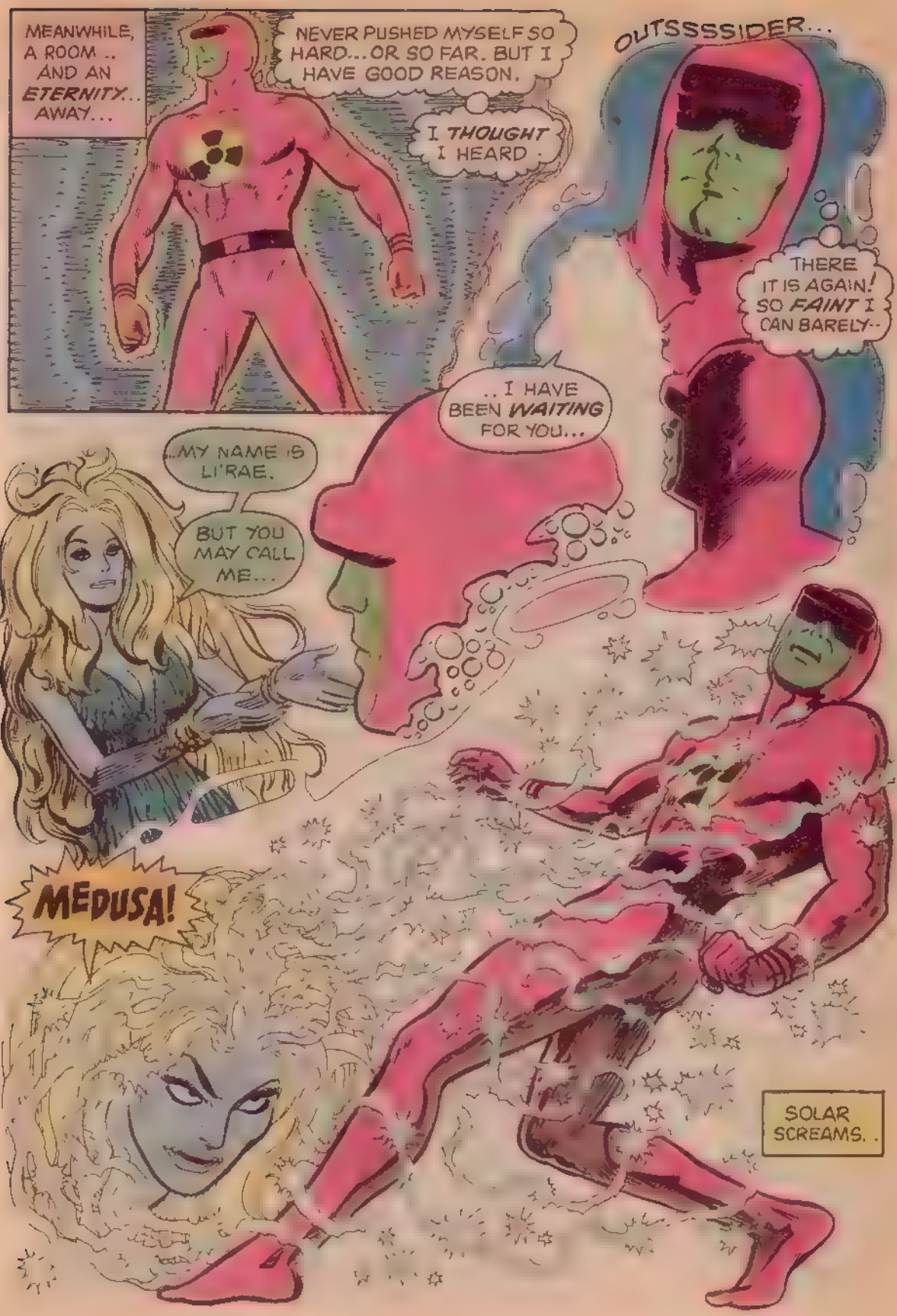

RAY, I'D LIKE TO MONITOR LIGHT TO ENERGY TRANSFER...
...A STATISTICAL CROSSCHECK OF ELECTROMAGNETIC CONVERSION IN RELATION TO YOUR ATOMIC AND MOLECULAR STRUCTURE.
IN OTHER WORDS, SEE WHAT MAKES ME TICK!
MORE OR LESS.
SOLAR TENSES, ATOMIC ENERGY SURGING WITHIN HIM. THEN, WITH A BLINDING FLASH...
...HE'S LOST TO SIGHT...
...BUT NOT FROM SENSOR SCRUTINY...
HE'S WORKING HIS WAY ALONG THE SPECTRUM, DOCTOR. RADIO WAVES...RADAR... SHOULD BE HITTING VISIBLE BANDS...
COSMIC RAYS
GAMMA RAYS
X-RAY
ULTRA-VIOLET
VISIBLE LIGHT
NEAR INFRA-RED
FAR INFRA-RED
RADAR
RADIO
FREQUENCY INCREASE + 30M
...NOW!
THAT WAS... ASTOUNDING! TO THINK A HUMAN BEING COULD--
BETTER TAKE A LOOK AT THIS, DOCTOR CLARKSON!
SOMETHING NASTY'S COME UP!


WHAT'S THE PROBLEM, GAIL? EVERYTHING SEEMS NORMAL.
HE'S JUST PASSED GAMMA FREQUENCIES... MOVING INTO COSMIC RAY WAVELENGTHS...
COSMIC RAYS
GAMMA RAYS
X-RAY
... WHICH MEANS HE SHOULD BE DECELERATING. BUT IF ANYTHING, HE'S PICKING UP SPEED!
COSMIC RAYS
GAMMA RAYS
X-RAY
ULTRA-VIOLET
VISIBLE LIGHT
NEAR INFRA-RED
FAR INFRA-RED
RADAR
THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE! HE--
POSSIBLE OR NOT, WE'VE LOST HIM, DOCTOR CLARKSON. HE'S BEYOND EVEN SCANNER RANGE!

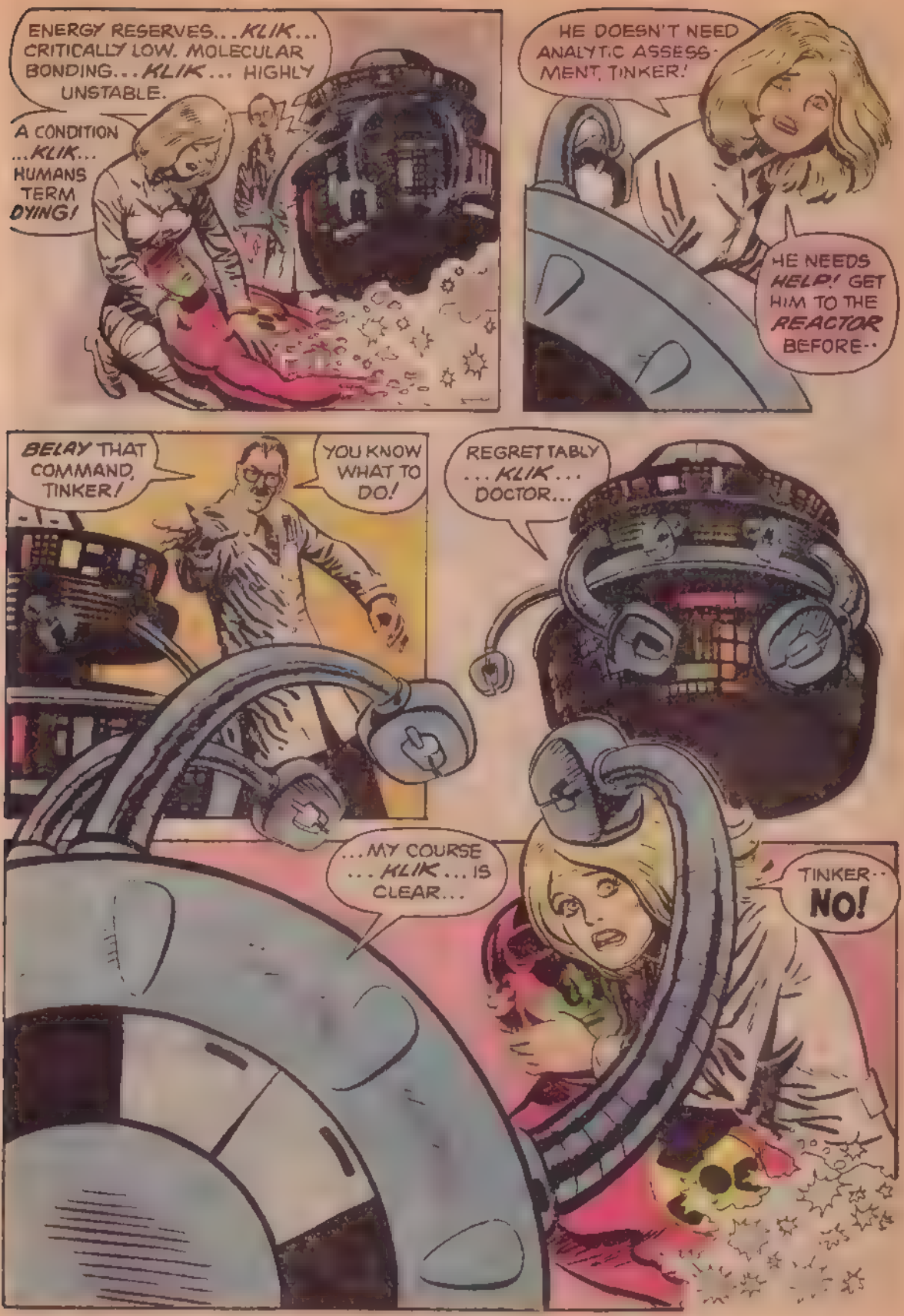
BEYOND WHERE ANYONE HAS EVER JOURNEYED BEFORE...

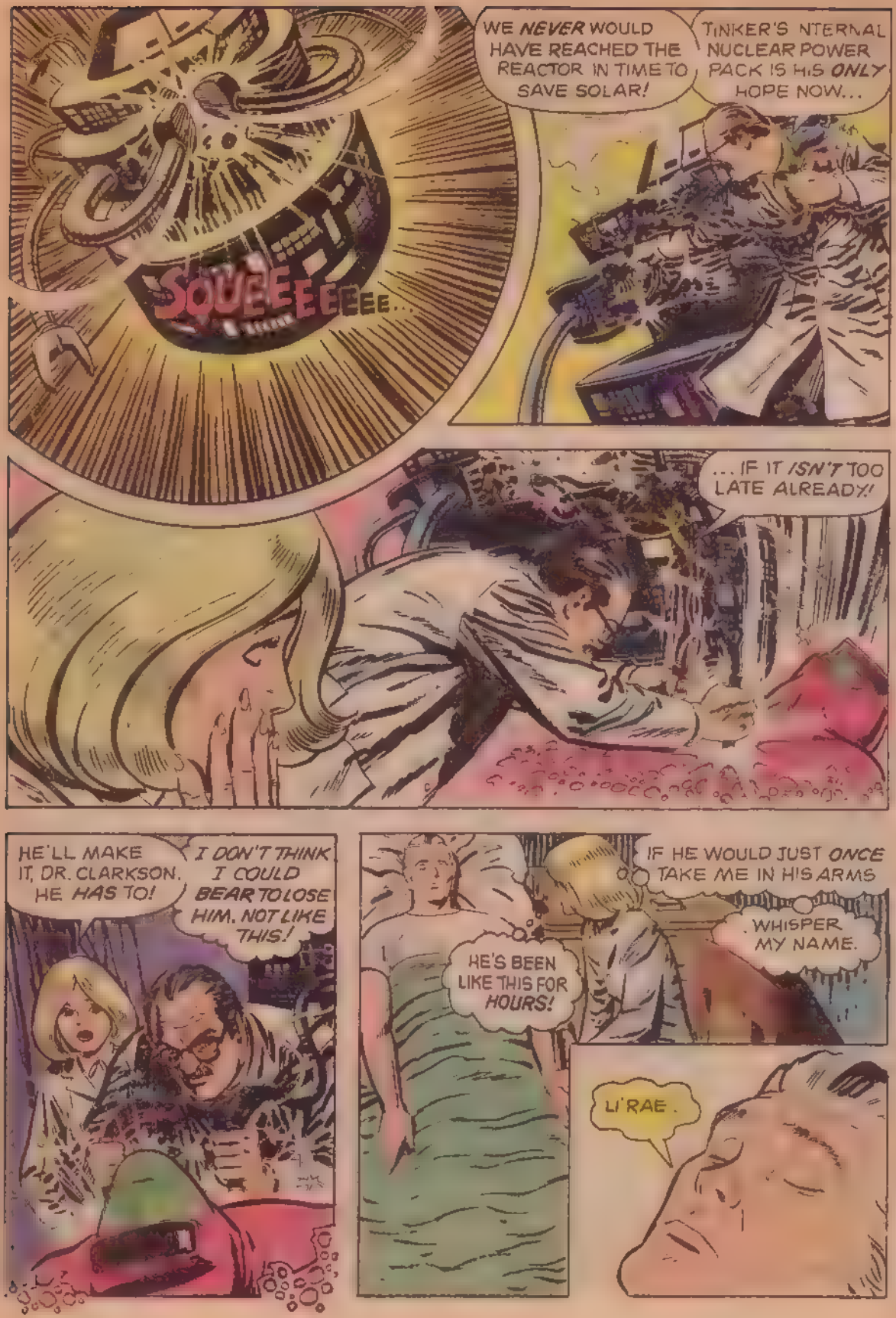
...WHAT IF HE CAN'T GET BACK?
I'M SURE HE KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING, GAIL. WE'LL JUST HAVE TO TRUST HIM!


SOMETIMES... THE THINGS HE CAN DO... SCARE ME!

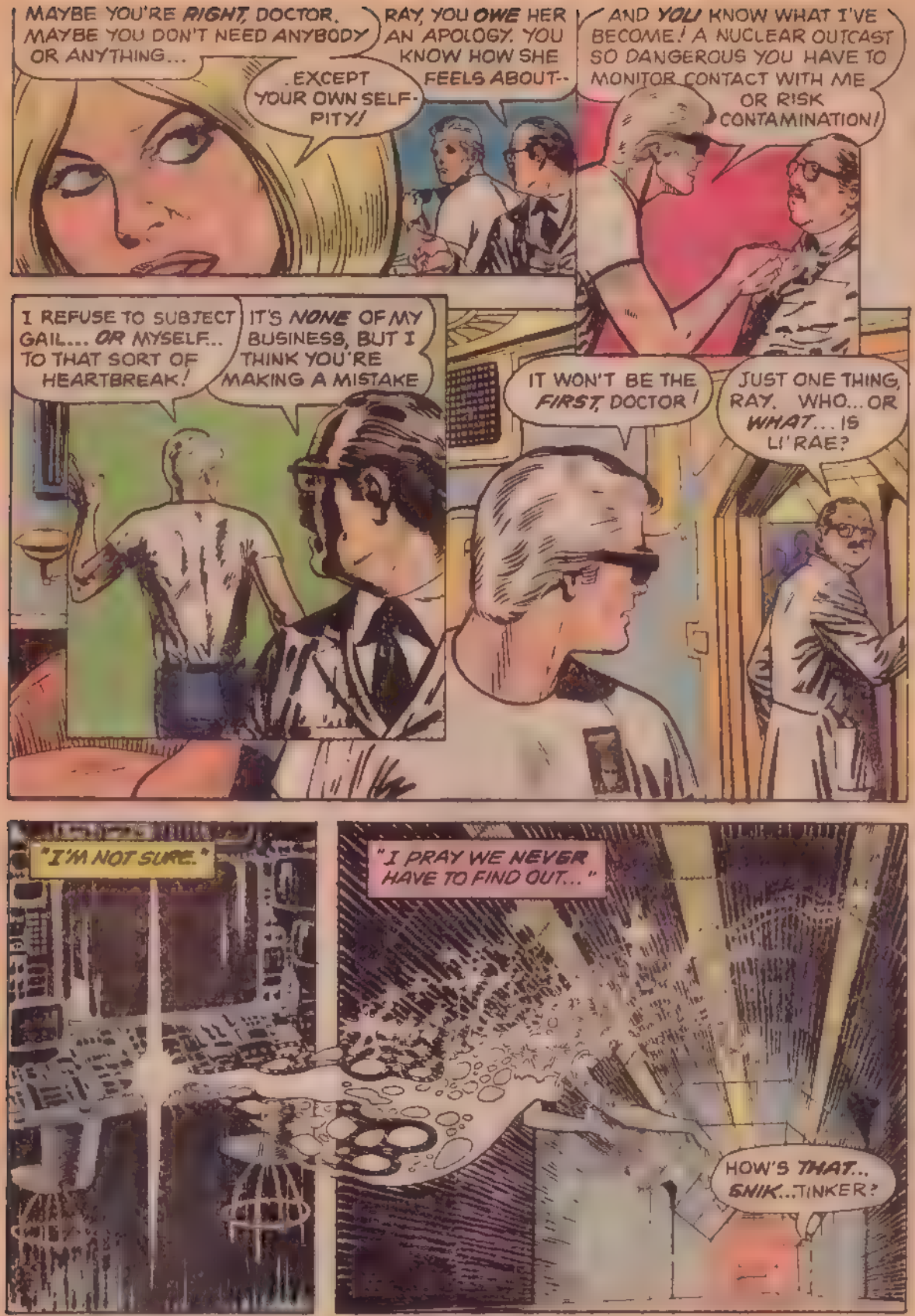

MEANWHILE, A ROOM .. AND AN ETERNITY.. AWAY...
NEVER PUSHED MYSELF SO HARD... OR SO FAR. BUT I HAVE GOOD REASON.
I THOUGHT I HEARD .
OUTSSSSIDER...
THERE IT IS AGAIN! SO FAINT I CAN BARELY--
.. I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU...
..MY NAME IS LI'RAE.
BUT YOU MAY CALL ME...
MEDUSA!
SOLAR SCREAMS. .

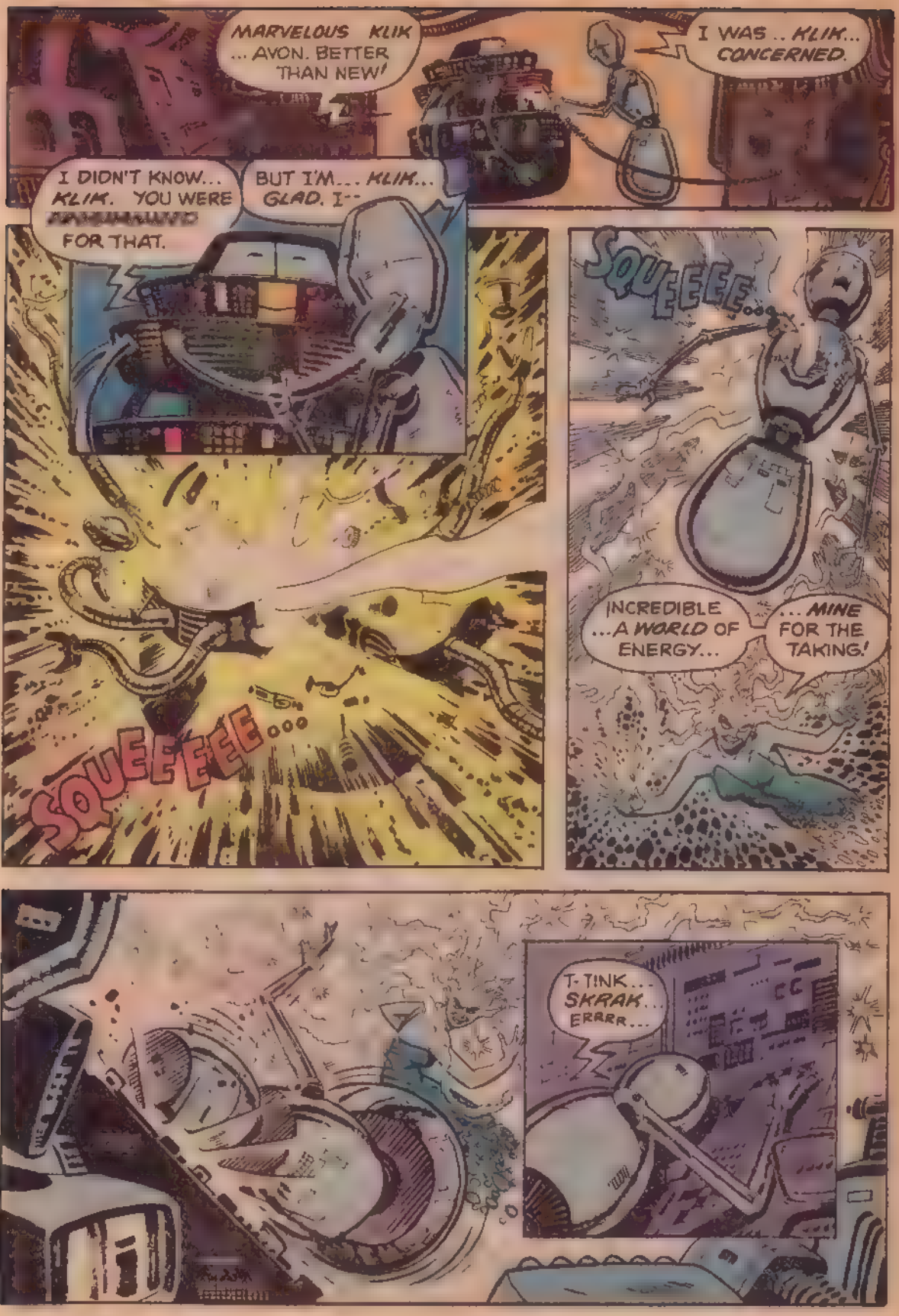
...BUT HE'S NOT THE ONLY ONE IN PAIN...
DOCTOR SOLAR... KLIK... HAS BEEN GONE FOR DAYS!
YOU'RE SCIENTISTS... KLIK... DO SOMETHING!
THERE S NOTHING WE CAN DO, TINKER. EXCEPT WAIT... PRAY...
HE MAY NEVER BE COMING BACK!
...AND FACE THE REALIZATION...
RAY!


ENERGY RESERVES...KLIK... CRITICALLY LOW. MOLECULAR BONDING...KLIK... HIGHLY UNSTABLE.
A CONDITION ...KLIK... HUMANS TERM DYING!
HE DOESN'T NEED ANALYTIC ASSESSMENT, TINKER!
HE NEEDS HELP! GET HIM TO THE REACTOR BEFORE..
BELAY THAT COMMAND, TINKER!
YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO!
REGRETTABLY ...KLIK... DOCTOR...
...MY COURSE ...KLIK... IS CLEAR...
TINKER.. NO!

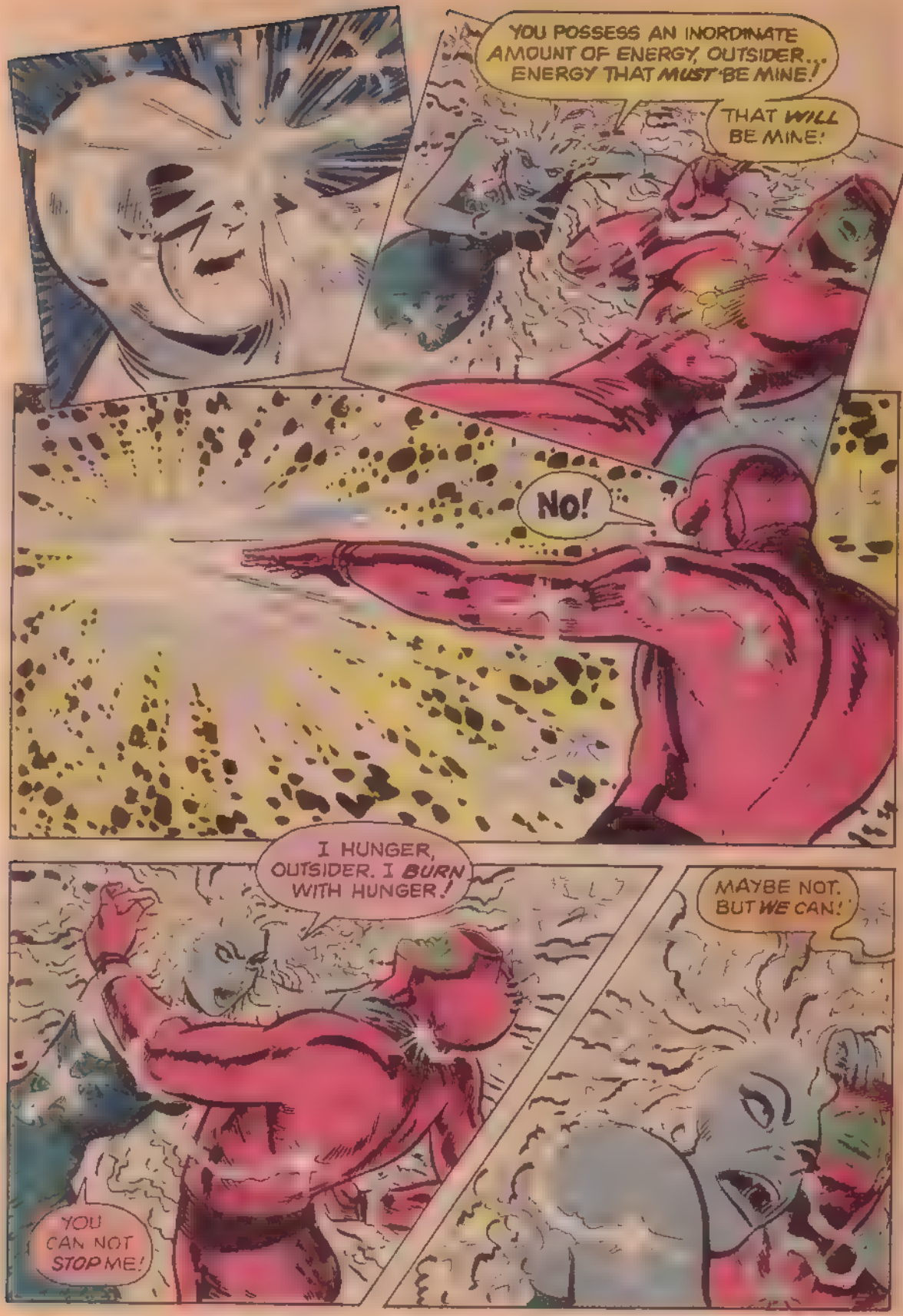

SQUEEEEEEEE...
WE NEVER WOULD HAVE REACHED THE REACTOR IN TIME TO SAVE SOLAR!
TINKER'S INTERNAL NUCLEAR POWER PACK IS HIS ONLY HOPE NOW...
...IF IT ISN'T TOO LATE ALREADY!
HE'LL MAKE IT, DR. CLARKSON. HE HAS TO!
I DON'T THINK I COULD BEAR TO LOSE HIM. NOT LIKE THIS!
HE'S BEEN LIKE THIS FOR HOURS!
IF HE WOULD JUST ONCE TAKE ME IN HIS ARMS
. WHISPER MY NAME.
LI'RAE.

SEVERAL HOURS LATER...
YOU HAD US *WORRIED*, RAY. FEELING BETTER?
I HAVEN'T FELT MUCH OF *ANYTHING*, DOCTOR CLARKSON...
"..SINCE THE ACCIDENT..."
SOMETIMES I THINK IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER IF I *HADN'T* SURVIVED...
...NOT LIKE THIS!
YOU CAN'T MEAN THAT. YOU STILL HAVE *MANY* REASONS TO LIVE!
*DO* I, DOCTOR SANDERS? I DON'T THINK SO.
NOT ANYMORE!

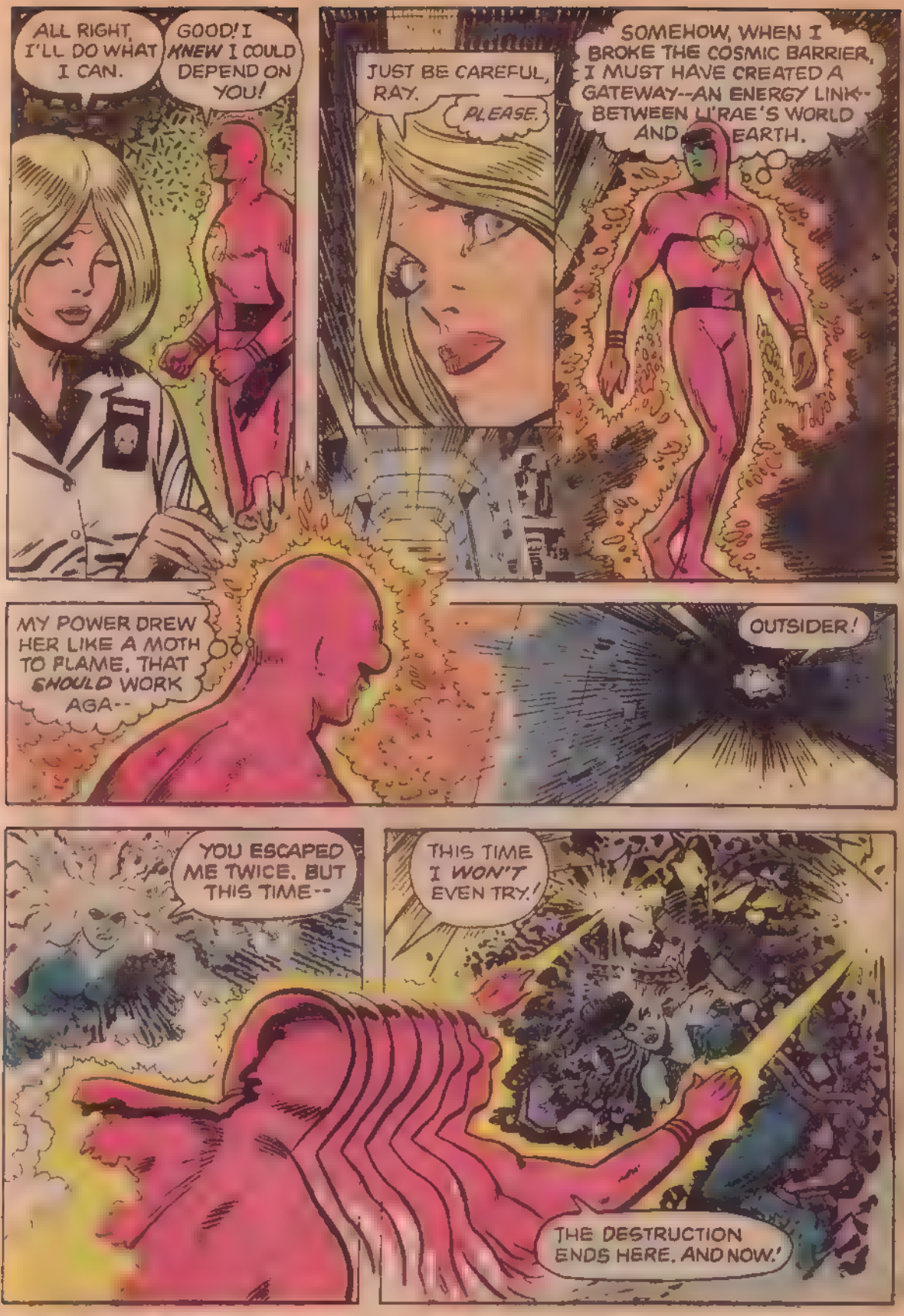

MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT, DOCTOR. MAYBE YOU DON'T NEED ANYBODY OR ANYTHING...
.EXCEPT YOUR OWN SELF-PITY!
RAY, YOU OWE HER AN APOLOGY. YOU KNOW HOW SHE FEELS ABOUT--
AND YOU KNOW WHAT I'VE BECOME! A NUCLEAR OUTCAST SO DANGEROUS YOU HAVE TO MONITOR CONTACT WITH ME OR RISK CONTAMINATION!
I REFUSE TO SUBJECT GAIL... OR MYSELF... TO THAT SORT OF HEARTBREAK!
IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS, BUT I THINK YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE
IT WON'T BE THE FIRST, DOCTOR!
JUST ONE THING, RAY. WHO... OR WHAT... IS LI'RAE?
"I'M NOT SURE."
"I PRAY WE NEVER HAVE TO FIND OUT..."
HOW'S THAT... SNIK...TINKER?

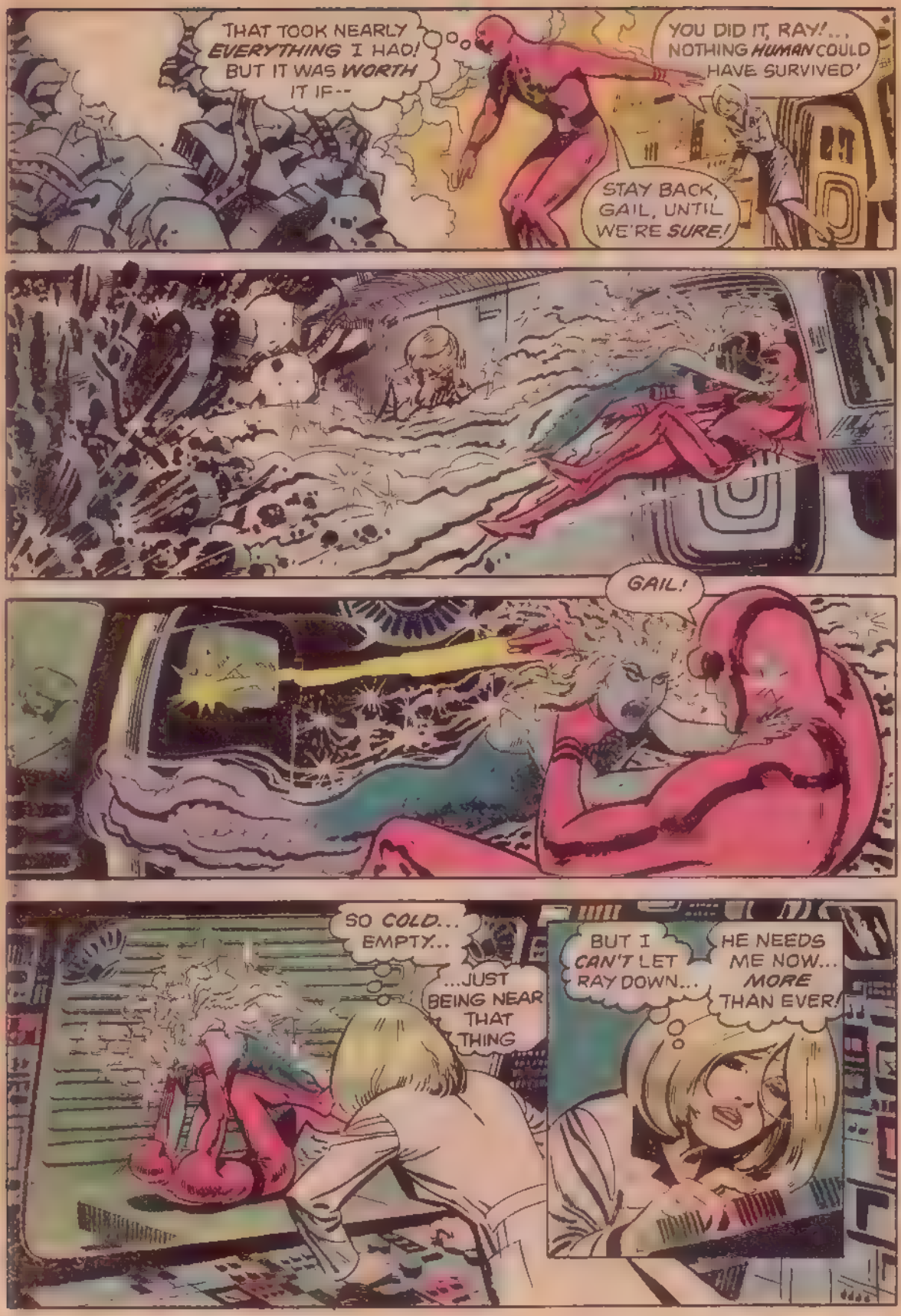

MARVELOUS KLIK ... AVON. BETTER THAN NEW!
I WAS .. KLIK... CONCERNED.
I DIDN'T KNOW... KLIK. YOU WERE [illegible] FOR THAT.
BUT I'M... KLIK... GLAD. I--
SQUEEEE...
SQUEEEE...
INCREDIBLE ...A WORLD OF ENERGY...
... MINE FOR THE TAKING!
T-TINK... SKRAK... ERRRR...

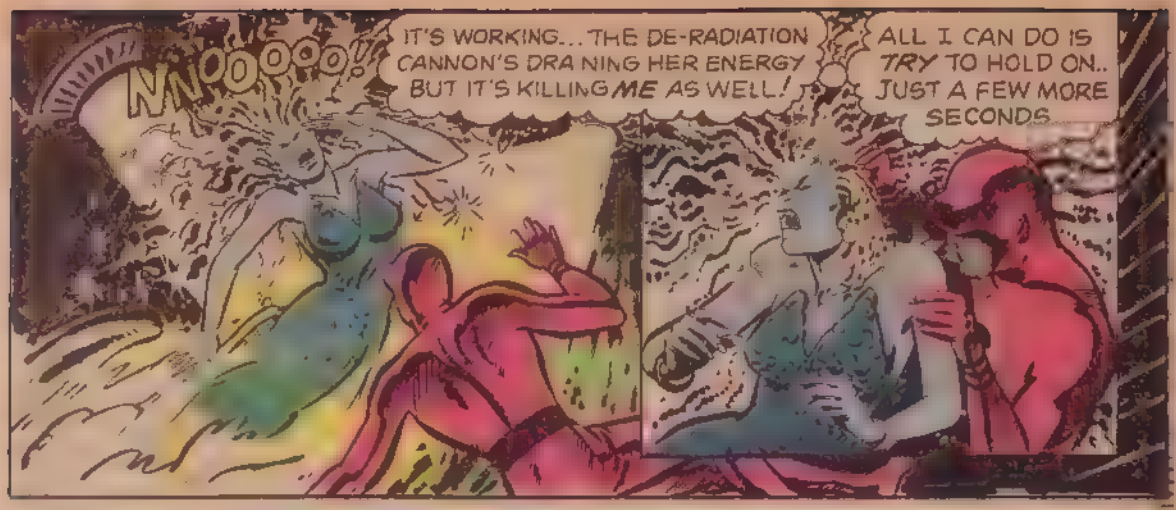
BREE
BREE...
SOLAR, THAT'S A CODE FIVE ALERT! WHAT'S GOING ON?
I DON'T KNOW..
...BUT I INTEND TO FIND OUT!
THE NEARER I COME TO THE ROBOT MAINTENANCE SECTION, THE DIMMER THE LIGHTING...
..AS IF SOMEONE - OR SOME THING--WAS DRAINING ALL ENERGY FROM THIS AREA. I'VE A NASTY FEELING ABOUT THIS!
AND IT JUST GOT A WHOLE LOT NASTIER! NOTHING SHORT OF A TANK COULD DISABLE AN ATOM VALLEY OMNI NEURO-BOT!
MUCH LESS TINKER. WHOEVER DID THIS--
OUTSIDER..

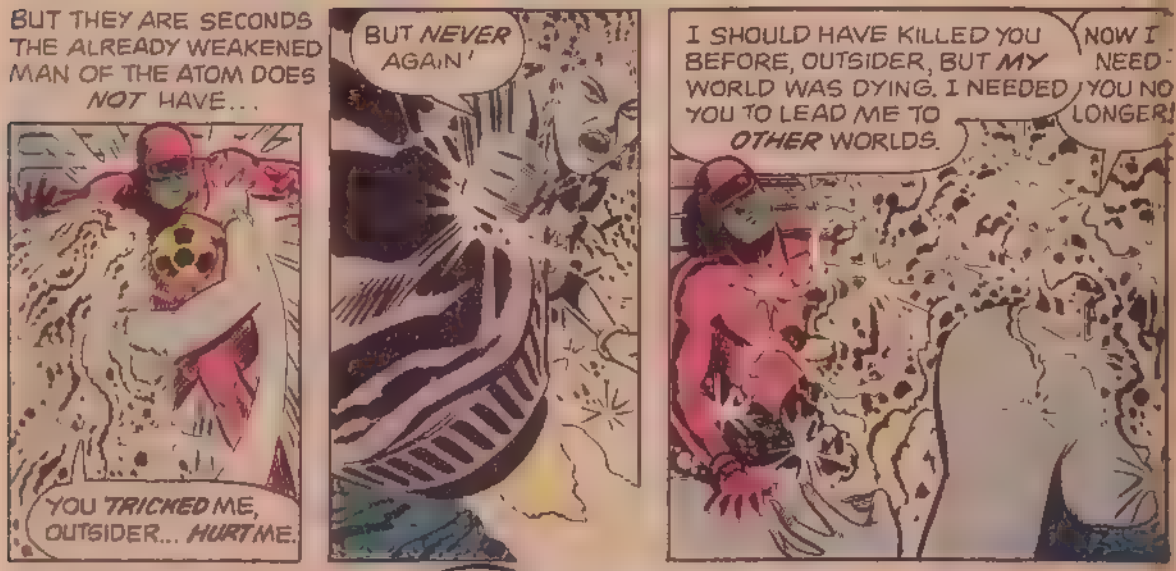

YOU POSSESS AN INORDINATE AMOUNT OF ENERGY, OUTSIDER... ENERGY THAT MUST BE MINE!
THAT WILL BE MINE!
NO!
I HUNGER, OUTSIDER. I BURN WITH HUNGER!
YOU CAN NOT STOP ME!
MAYBE NOT. BUT WE CAN!

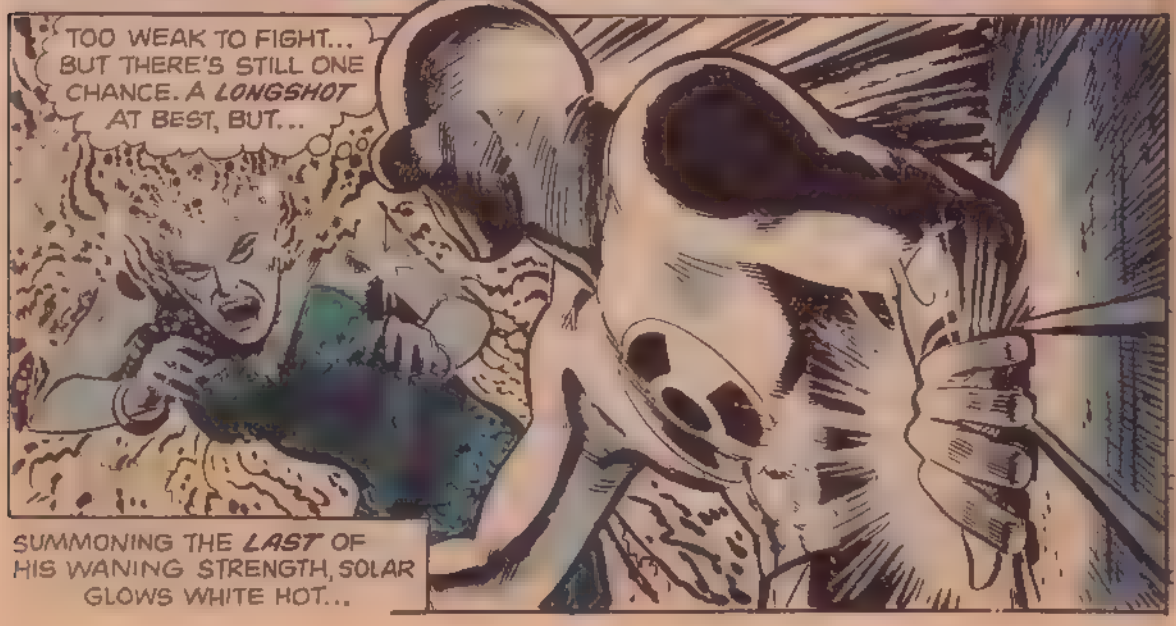
HIT HER...
...HARD!
EASY, RAY. I'VE GOT YOU. BUT WHAT IN THE NAME OF HEAVEN IS THAT?
HEAVEN HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT, GAIL!
BUT THE DE-RADIATION CHAMBER MIGHT!
THAT AREA IS OFF-LIMITS TO YOU. THE RISKS--
DOCTOR, I'M NOT INTERESTED IN RULES AND REGULATIONS NOW! I'M TRYING TO SAVE LIVES!
HOW? BY THROWING YOURS AWAY?
I WORKED ON THIS PROJECT, RAY. DESIGNED IT AS A MEANS TO DRAIN ATOMIC RADIATION-- SOMETHING DEADLY TO YOU--
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS I WON'T BE PART OF--
".. THERE JUST ISN'T TIME"
AND TO U'RAE. SHE FEEDS ON ENERGY. IF I CAN LURE HER IN THERE--
GAIL, I NEED YOUR HELP. DON'T ARGUE WITH ME...PLEASE!
SQUEEE...

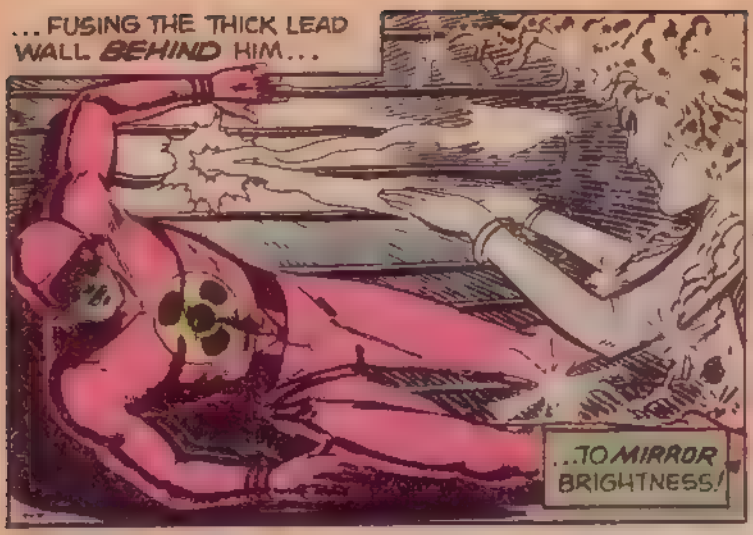

ALL RIGHT, I'LL DO WHAT I CAN.
GOOD! I KNEW I COULD DEPEND ON YOU!
JUST BE CAREFUL, RAY.
PLEASE.
SOMEHOW, WHEN I BROKE THE COSMIC BARRIER, I MUST HAVE CREATED A GATEWAY--AN ENERGY LINK--BETWEEN LI'RAE'S WORLD AND EARTH.
MY POWER DREW HER LIKE A MOTH TO FLAME. THAT SHOULD WORK AGA--
OUTSIDER!
YOU ESCAPED ME TWICE. BUT THIS TIME--
THIS TIME I WON'T EVEN TRY!
THE DESTRUCTION ENDS HERE. AND NOW!

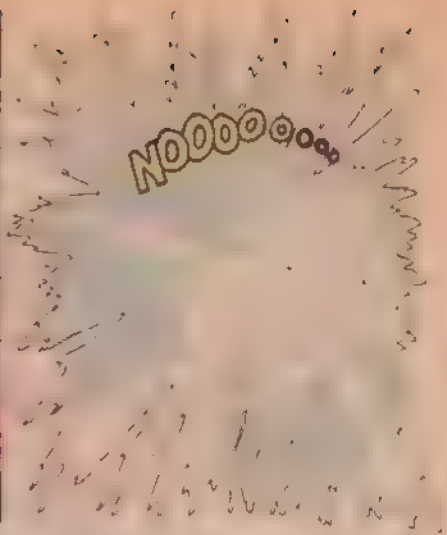

THAT TOOK NEARLY EVERYTHING I HAD! BUT IT WAS WORTH IT IF--
YOU DID IT, RAY!.., NOTHING HUMAN COULD HAVE SURVIVED!
STAY BACK, GAIL, UNTIL WE'RE SURE!
GAIL!
SO COLD... EMPTY...
...JUST BEING NEAR THAT THING
BUT I CAN'T LET RAY DOWN...
HE NEEDS ME NOW... MORE THAN EVER!

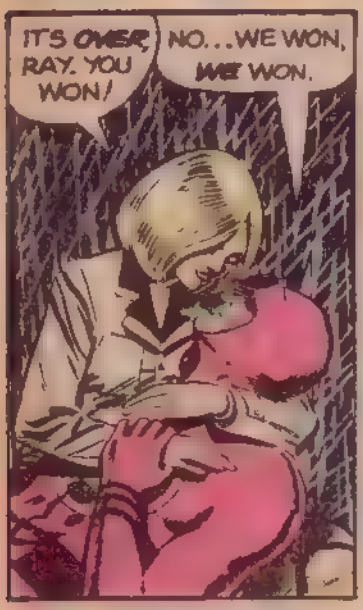

NNOOOOO!
IT'S WORKING... THE DE-RADIATION CANNON'S DRAINING HER ENERGY BUT IT'S KILLING ME AS WELL!
ALL I CAN DO IS TRY TO HOLD ON.. JUST A FEW MORE SECONDS...

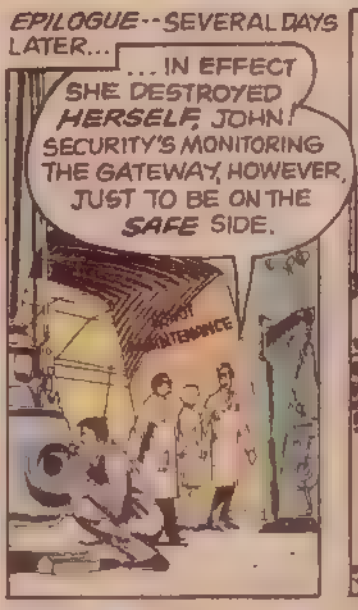

BUT THEY ARE SECONDS THE ALREADY WEAKENED MAN OF THE ATOM DOES NOT HAVE...
YOU TRICKED ME, OUTSIDER... HURT ME.
BUT NEVER AGAIN!
I SHOULD HAVE KILLED YOU BEFORE, OUTSIDER, BUT MY WORLD WAS DYING. I NEEDED YOU TO LEAD ME TO OTHER WORLDS.
NOW I NEED YOU NO LONGER!

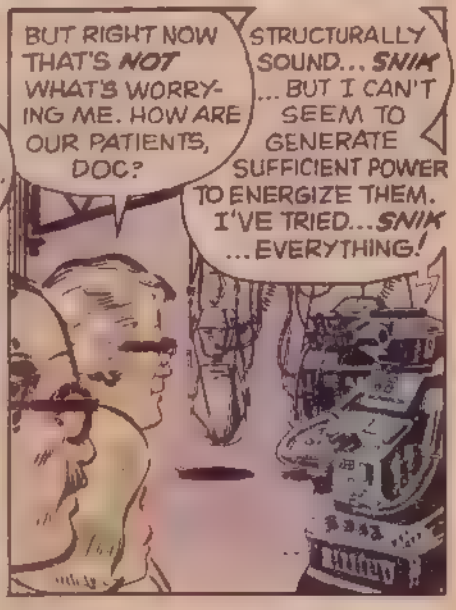

TOO WEAK TO FIGHT... BUT THERE'S STILL ONE CHANCE. A LONGSHOT AT BEST, BUT...
SUMMONING THE LAST OF HIS WANING STRENGTH, SOLAR GLOWS WHITE HOT...

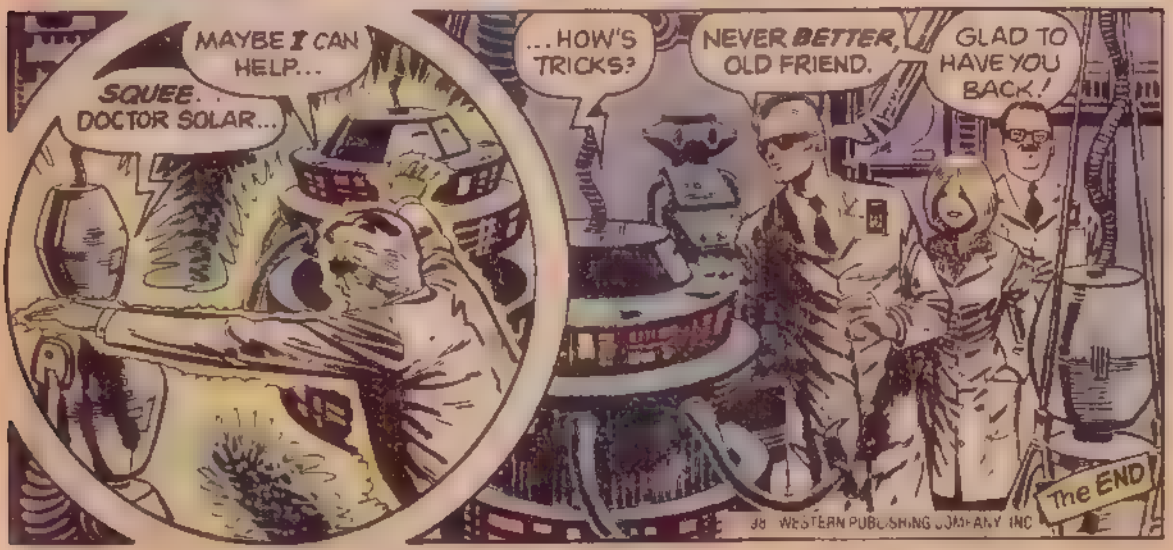




EPILOGUE--SEVERAL DAYS LATER...
...IN EFFECT SHE DESTROYED HERSELF, JOHN! SECURITY'S MONITORING THE GATEWAY, HOWEVER, JUST TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE.


BUT RIGHT NOW THAT'S NOT WHAT'S WORRYING ME. HOW ARE OUR PATIENTS, DOC?
STRUCTURALLY SOUND... SNIK ...BUT I CAN'T SEEM TO GENERATE SUFFICIENT POWER TO ENERGIZE THEM. I'VE TRIED... SNIK ...EVERYTHING!

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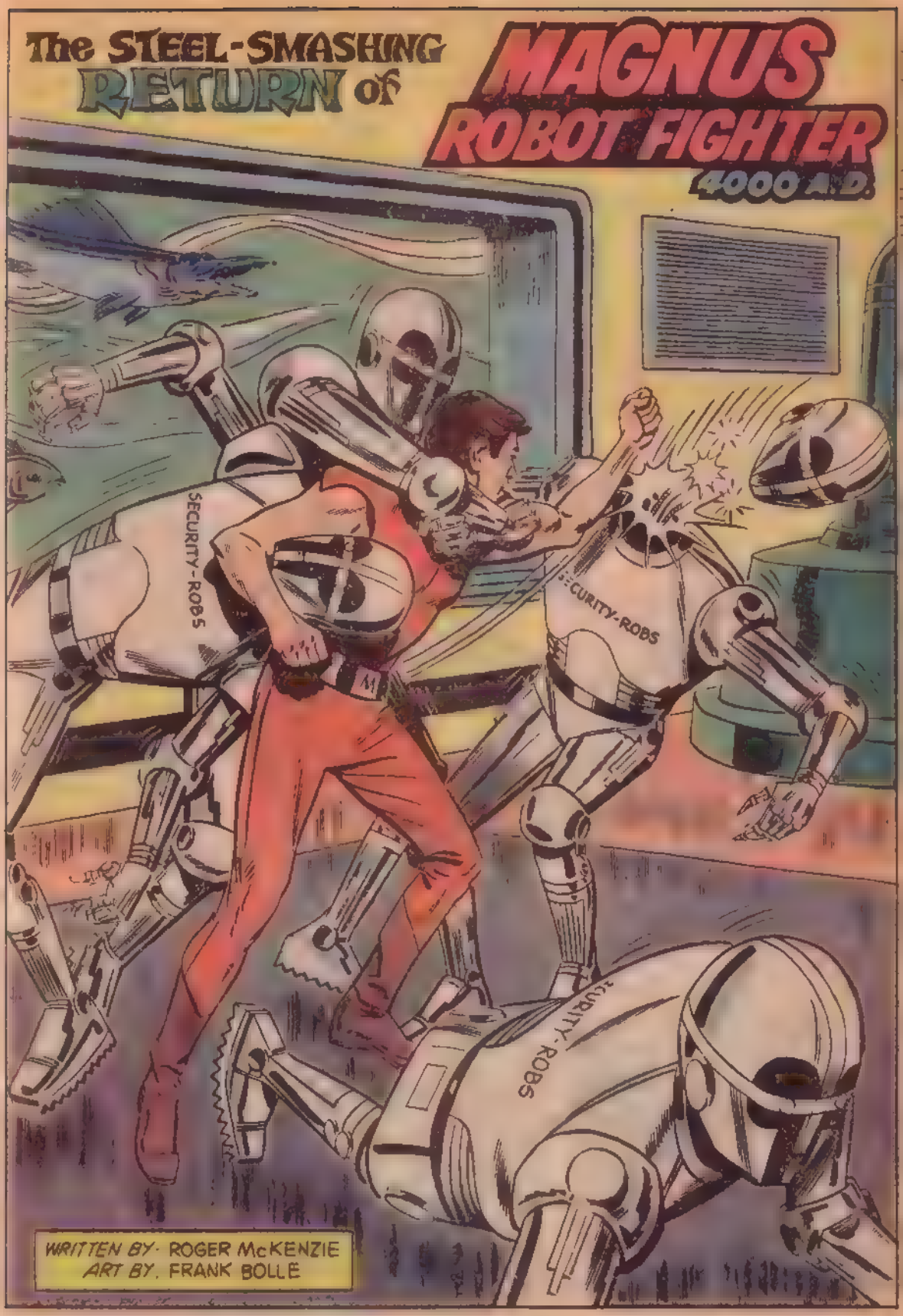
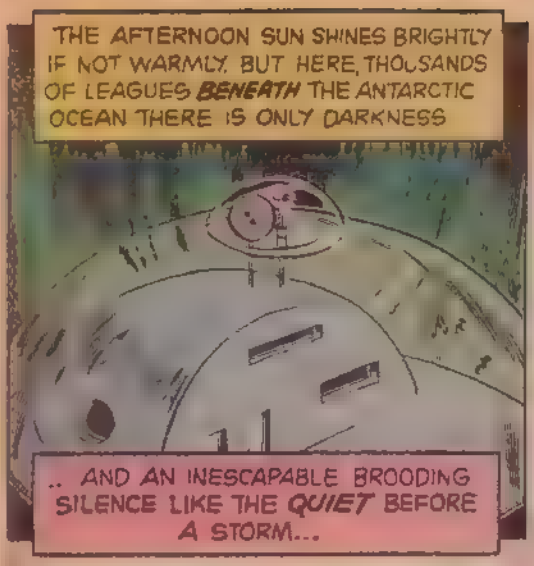
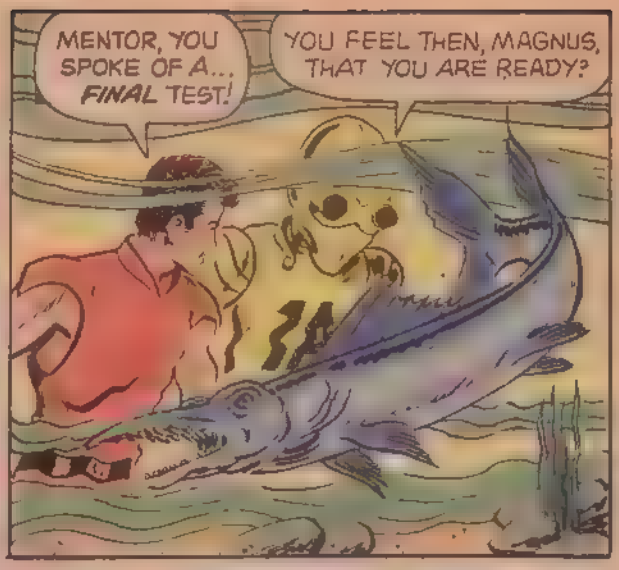
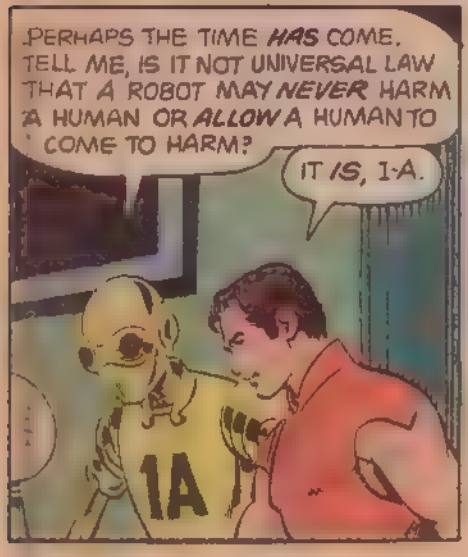
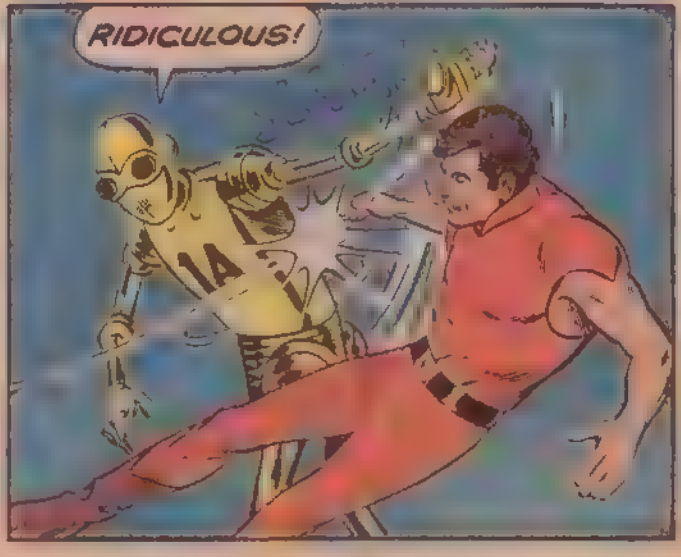

The STEEL-SMASHING RETURN of
MAGNUS ROBOT FIGHTER
4000 A.D.
SECURITY-ROBS
SECURITY-ROBS
SECURITY-ROBS
WRITTEN BY· ROGER McKENZIE
ART BY. FRANK BOLLE

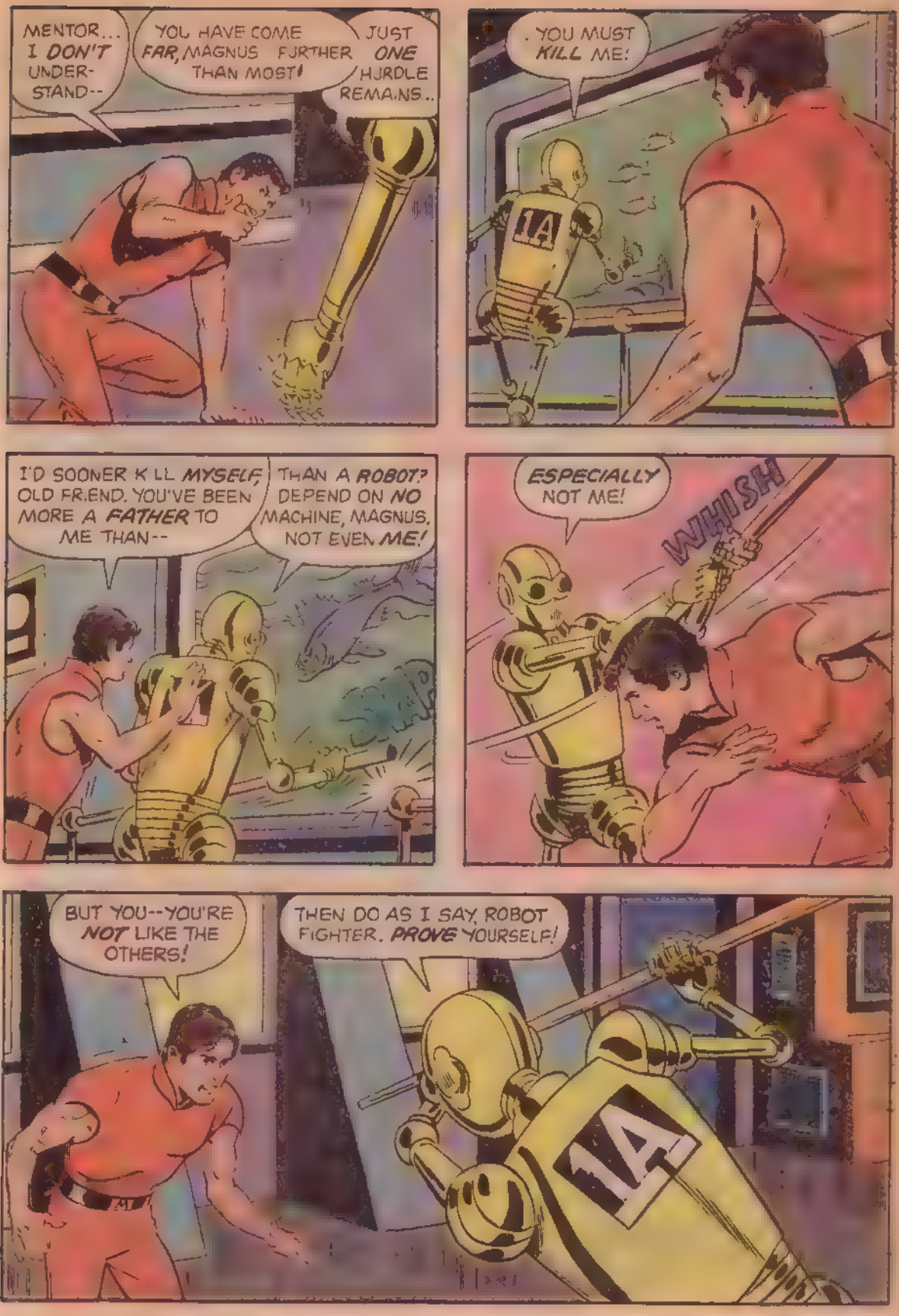

THE AFTERNOON SUN SHINES BRIGHTLY IF NOT WARMLY. BUT HERE, THOUSANDS OF LEAGUES BENEATH THE ANTARCTIC OCEAN THERE IS ONLY DARKNESS
.. AND AN INESCAPABLE BROODING SILENCE LIKE THE QUIET BEFORE A STORM...


MENTOR, YOU SPOKE OF A... FINAL TEST!
YOU FEEL THEN, MAGNUS, THAT YOU ARE READY?
1A

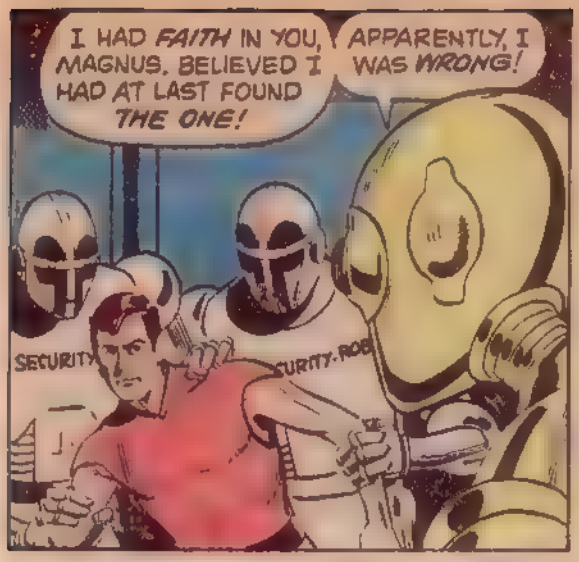
I DON'T KNOW...TO LEAVE YOU. . THIS SANCTUARY... SOMETHING I'VE ALWAYS DREADED!
AND YET--
AND YET CHILD BECOMES MAN. A NATURAL PROGRESSION.
1A

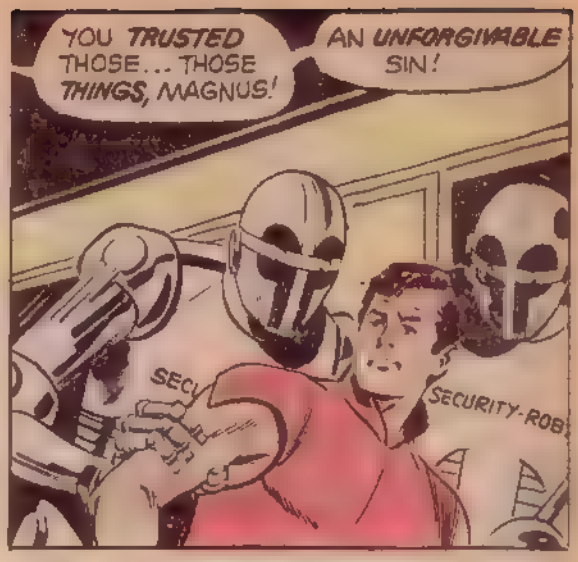

PERHAPS THE TIME HAS COME. TELL ME, IS IT NOT UNIVERSAL LAW THAT A ROBOT MAY NEVER HARM A HUMAN OR ALLOW A HUMAN TO COME TO HARM?
IT IS, 1-A.
1A


RIDICULOUS!
1A

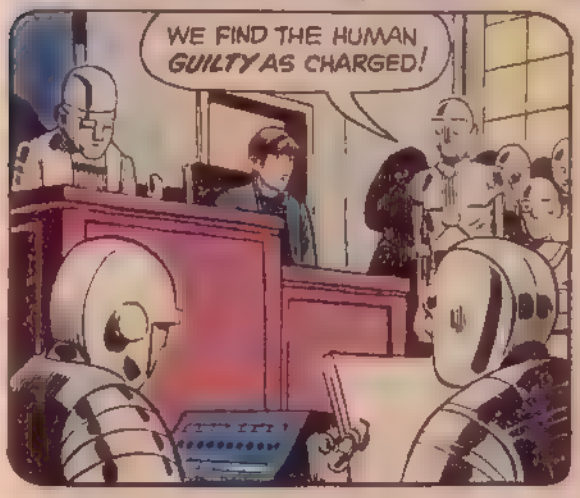

MENTOR... I DON'T UNDER-STAND--
YOU HAVE COME FAR, MAGNUS FURTHER THAN MOST!
JUST ONE HURDLE REMAINS..
. YOU MUST KILL ME!
1A
I'D SOONER KILL MYSELF, OLD FRIEND. YOU'VE BEEN MORE A FATHER TO ME THAN--
THAN A ROBOT? DEPEND ON NO MACHINE, MAGNUS, NOT EVEN ME!
ESPECIALLY NOT ME!
WHISH
BUT YOU--YOU'RE NOT LIKE THE OTHERS!
THEN DO AS I SAY, ROBOT FIGHTER. PROVE YOURSELF!
1A

VERY WELL, MENTOR...
1A
...BUT I WILL NOT KILL YOU!
SECURITY-ROBS... SECTOR SEVEN... .. EMERGENCY!
"THAT ROBOT HAS MALFUNCTIONED! DETAIN IT!
1A
SECURITY-ROBS
IMPOSSIBLE, HUMAN!
SECURITY-ROBS

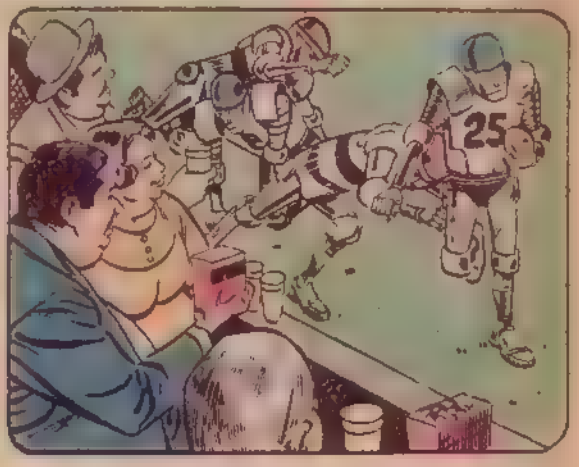


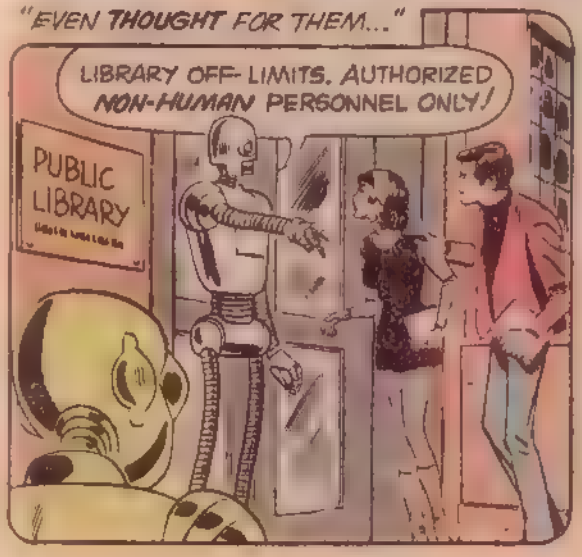

"CREATED TO BE PERFECT **SERVANTS**, ROBOTS BECAME, OVER THE CENTURIES, PERFECT **MASTERS**.."



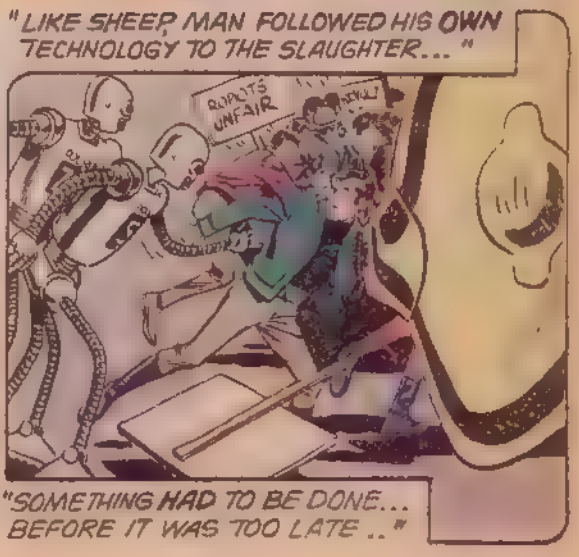

"BY DEGREES PEOPLE DID LESS AND **LESS** FOR THEMSELVES. MACHINES WAITED ON THEM... PLAYED FOR THEM..."




"EVEN **THOUGHT** FOR THEM..."

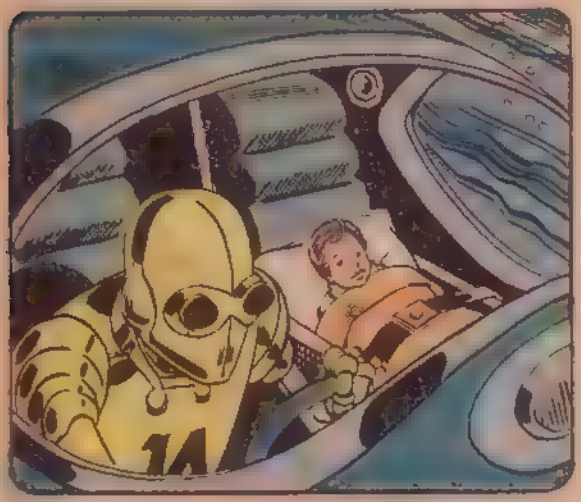



"LIKE SHEEP, MAN FOLLOWED HIS **OWN** TECHNOLOGY TO THE SLAUGHTER..."

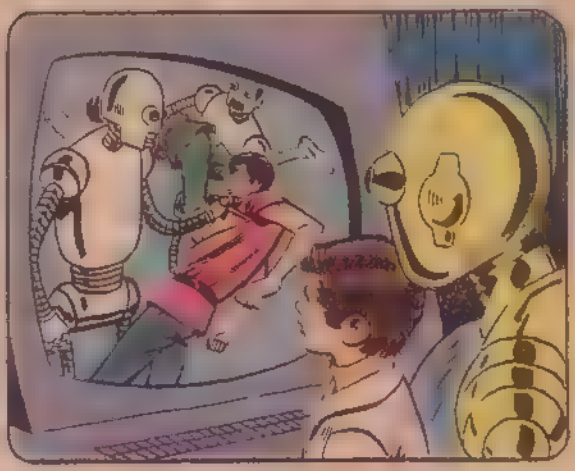



"SOMETHING **HAD** TO BE DONE... BEFORE IT WAS TOO LATE .."

"YOU WERE MY LAST HOPE, MAGNUS. A HOMELESS ORPHAN, I GAVE YOU A HOME.."

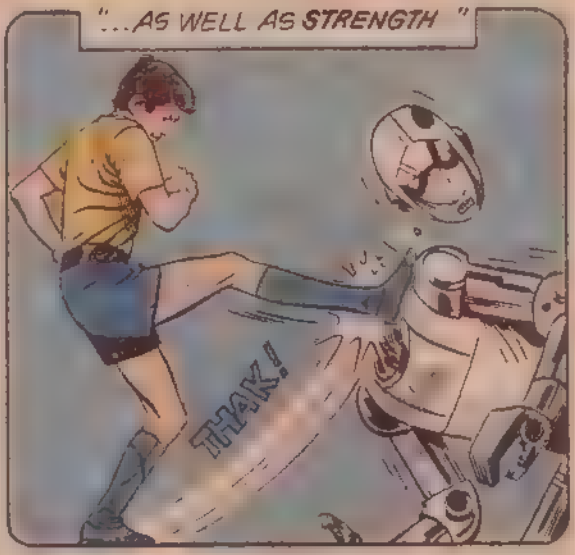


"MORE IMPORTANTLY, I GAVE YOU TRUTH. TRAINED YOU FOR THE DAY YOU WOULD LEAD MAN'S REVOLT AGAINST THE TYRANT ROBOTS.."

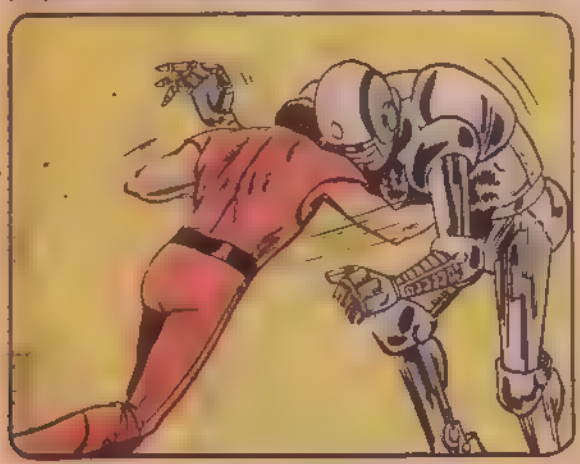


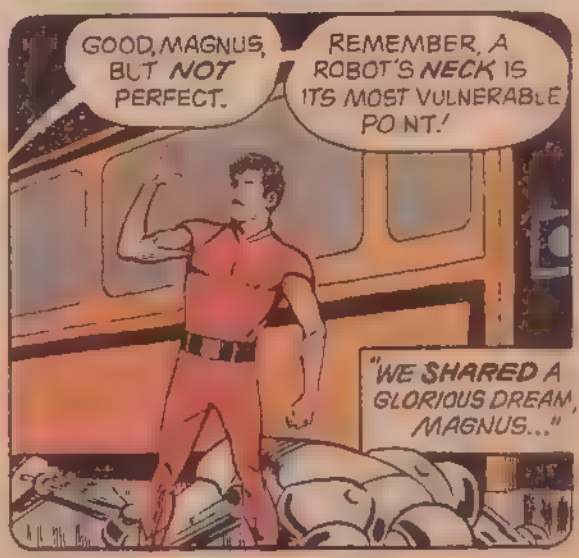
"TRAINED YOU TO USE YOUR MIND."

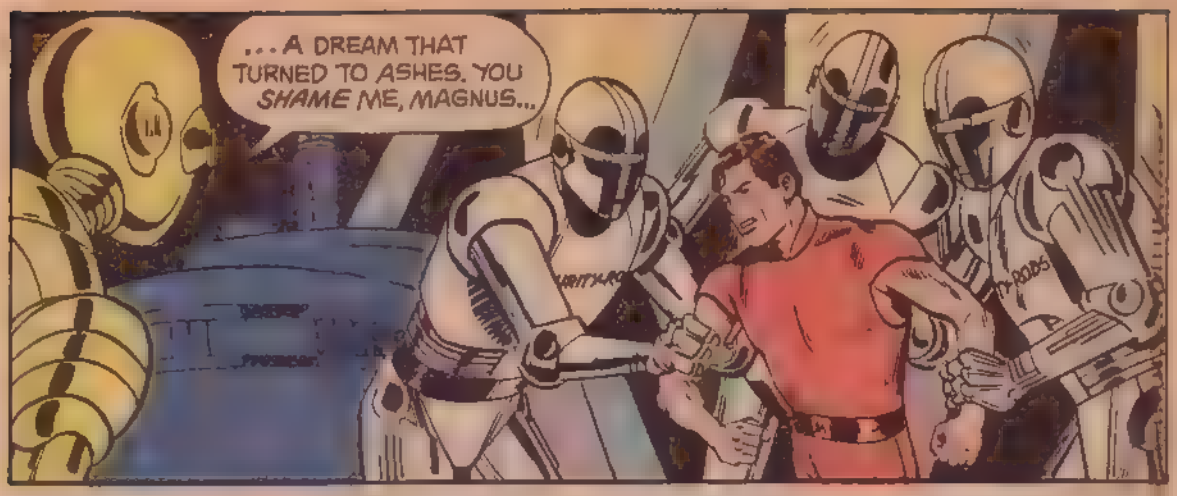
"...AS WELL AS STRENGTH"

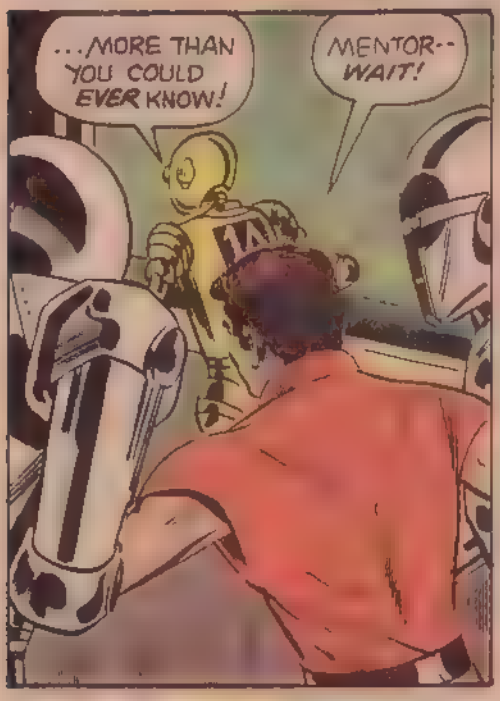


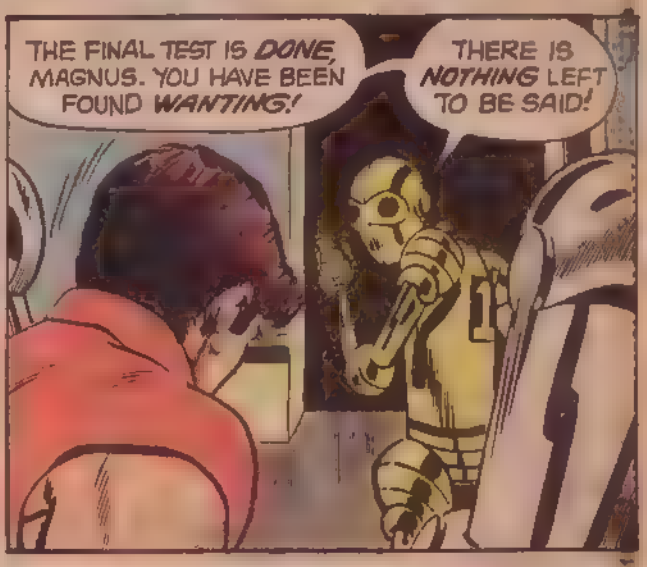

"STEEL-SHATTERING STRENGTH NURTURED BY YEARS OF RIGOROUS TRAINING USING TECHNIQUES FEW HUMANS HAD EVER MASTERED.."

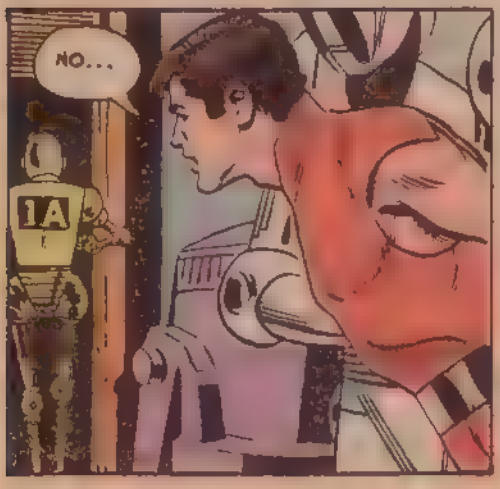


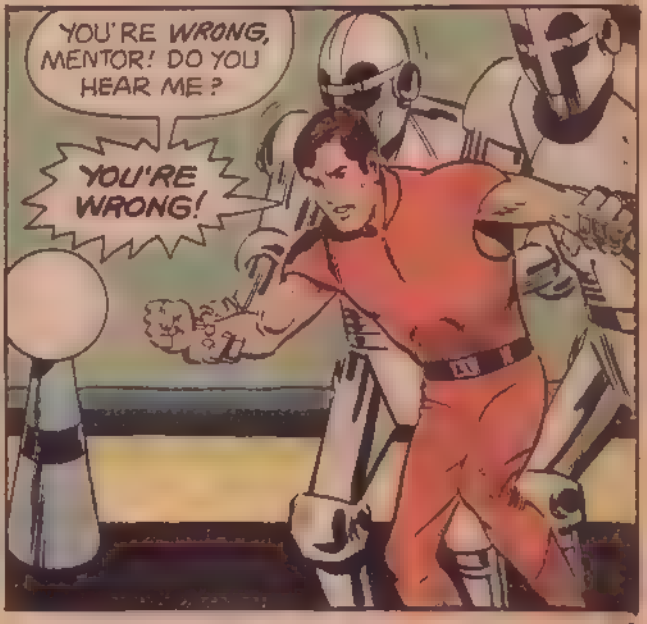


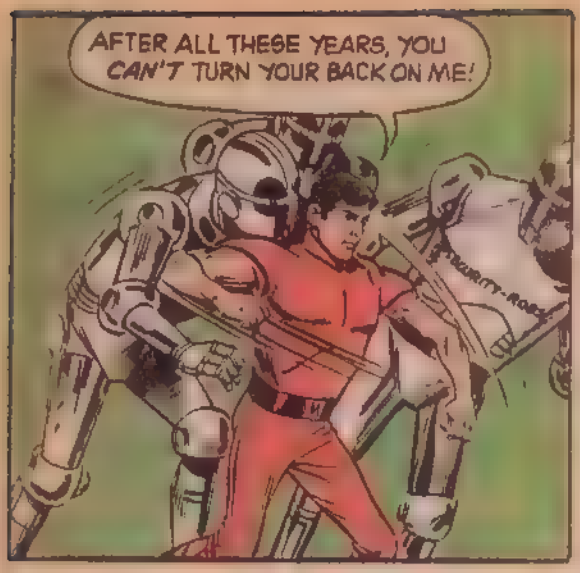

...A DREAM THAT TURNED TO ASHES. YOU SHAME ME, MAGNUS...

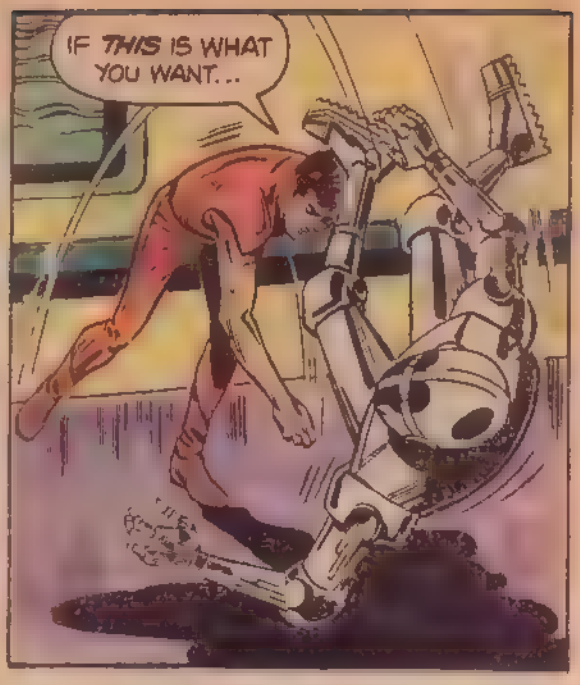

...MORE THAN YOU COULD EVER KNOW!
MENTOR-- WAIT!

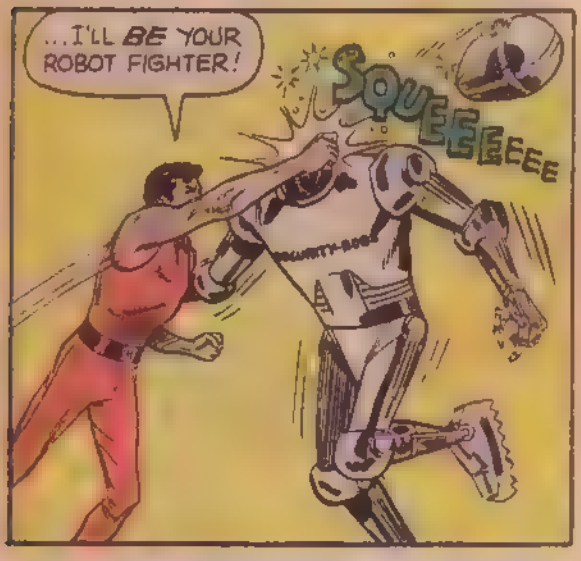

THE FINAL TEST IS DONE, MAGNUS. YOU HAVE BEEN FOUND WANTING!
THERE IS NOTHING LEFT TO BE SAID!

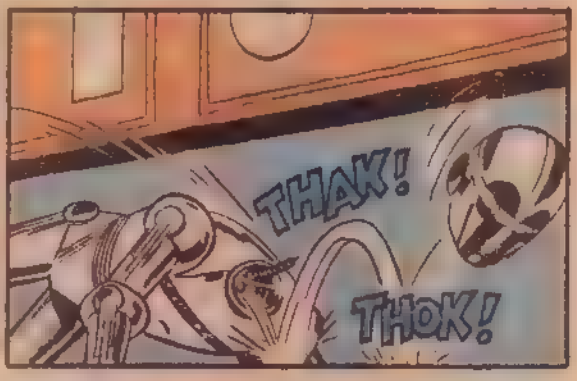

NO...

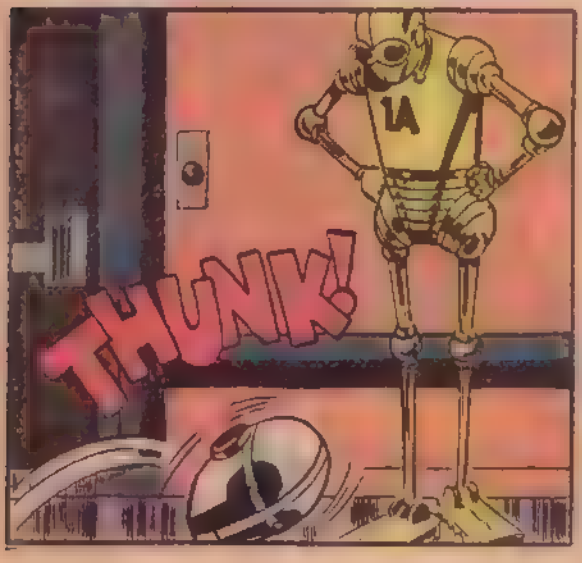

YOU'RE WRONG, MENTOR! DO YOU HEAR ME?
YOU'RE WRONG!

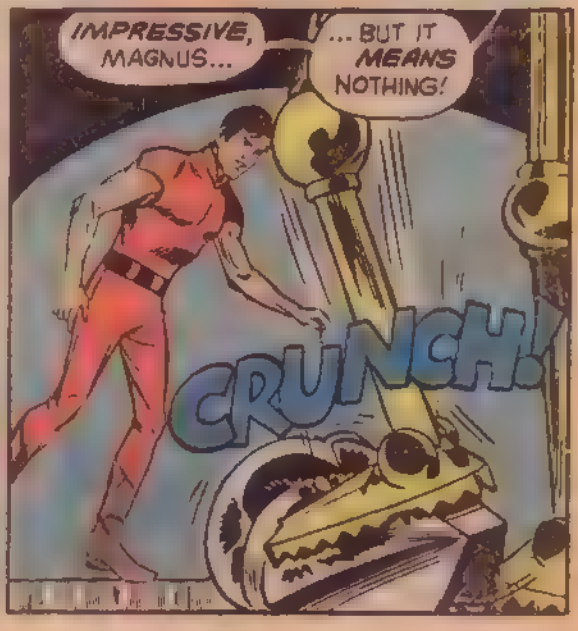

AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, YOU CAN'T TURN YOUR BACK ON ME!


IF THIS IS WHAT YOU WANT...


...I'LL BE YOUR ROBOT FIGHTER!
SQUEEEEEEE


THAK!
THOK!


THUNK!


IMPRESSIVE, MAGNUS...
...BUT IT MEANS NOTHING!
CRUNCH!

RELY ON ME, MAGNUS, AND YOU'RE NO BETTER THAN THE HUMANS YOU WISH TO PROTECT!
I CAN'T FIGHT YOU, MENTOR! I CAN'T--
1A
SLAP
YOU HAVE NO CHOICE!
1A
MANKIND GROWS MORE DEPENDENT ON ROBOTS WITH EVERY PASSING DAY.
A LUXURY YOU CANNOT AFFORD.
THWAP
LOOK AT ME, MAGNUS. I'M NOT A MAN, I'M A MACHINE...
...YET I'VE TOLD YOU WHAT TO DO FROM THE DAY YOU WERE BORN!
CRASH!
1A
NO! THAT'S NOT TRUE, YOU DIRTY, STINKING...

...ROBOT!
SQUEEEEEEe...
1A
YOU... HAVE YOUR FIGHTER, MENTOR!
I HOPE YOU'RE HAPPY.
1A
ECSTATIC, MAGNUS, THOUGH I REGRET THE DECEPTION!
1A
1-A! THEN THIS--
A MECHANICAL DUPLICATE. CRASS FELLOW, DON'T YOU THINK?
BUT THE WORLD NEEDS YOU. I HAD TO BE SURE!
1A
TINK!
THERE'S SO MUCH TO BE DONE, OLD FRIEND.
CAN I REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE?
YOU CAN TRY, MAGNUS!
NOTHING ELSE MATTERS!
1A
The END
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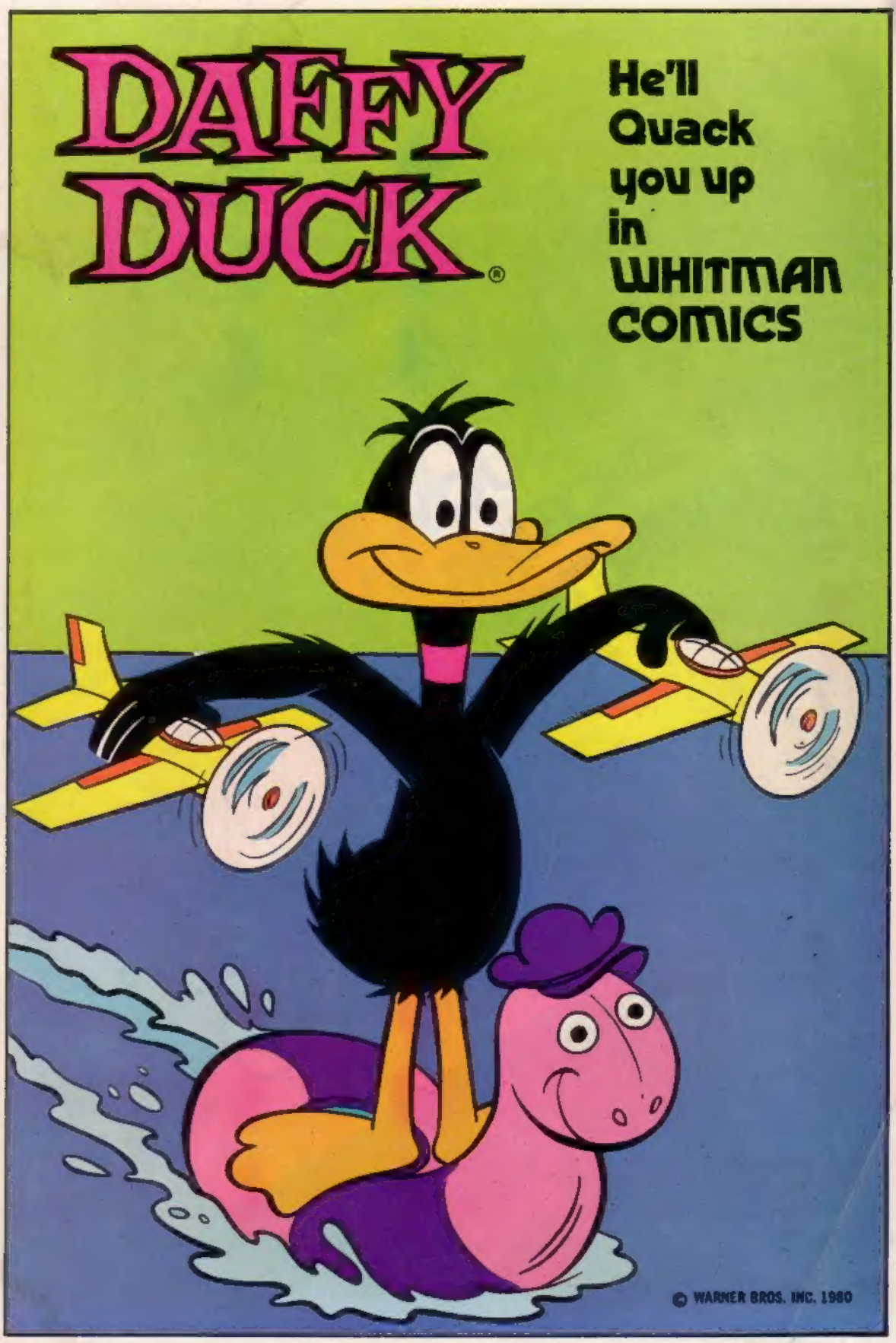
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